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Front

THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS (LONGFELLOW).

The skipper he stood beside the helm
His pipe was in his mouth.—P. 73.

A
THOUSAND AND ONE GEMS
OF
ENGLISH POETRY

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

By CHARLES MACKAY, LL.D.

EDITOR OF "GEMS OF ENGLISH PROSE"

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY
*SIR JOHN MILLAIS, R.A., SIR JOHN GILBERT, R.A., AND
BIRKET FOSTER*

TWENTY-THIRD EDITION

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, LIMITED
BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL
MANCHESTER AND NEW YORK
1897

less than
at his consent
reproduce some
on his part, knew

INTRODUCTION TO THE TWENTY-THIRD EDITION.

THE Editor desires to acknowledge the courtesy of Sir Edwin Arnold and of Mr. Alfred Austin, for permission to include some of their poems in the Twenty-third Edition of this work. His thanks are also due to Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., for permission to include Robert Browning's poem, "Hervé Riel;" and to Messrs. Ellis & Elvey, for permission to include three poems by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

October, 1896.

INTRODUCTION.

THE design of the Editor or Compiler of the following volume was to present one great panoramic view of the masterpieces of English poetry, and that of the publishers to issue it in a form and at a price which would recommend it to the taste of the rich, without placing it beyond the means of the poor. The original intention of the Editor was to commence with Chaucer and end with Wordsworth, Moore, Rogers, Hood, Campbell, and other poets of the last generation, who have recently passed from among us, thus excluding the works of living writers. To this arrangement the publishers made objection, on the ground, very easily defensible, that some of the brightest gems of the "Thousand and One" are the productions of living genius—both in Great Britain and the United States of America. The Editor yielded the point, but was met with the serious difficulty that it was not in all cases possible to include the works of living writers—even if their consent could be obtained;—firstly, because the copyrights were not always their own;—secondly, because their addresses were not obtainable without great trouble and loss of time;—and thirdly, because the modern poets, in England and America, were so numerous, that if specimens of all their poetic jewellery were got together, an undue proportion of the volume would be occupied by writers of the second half of the nineteenth century. Another difficulty which personally was more serious, existed in the dilemma in which the Editor found himself with regard to his own compositions. Had any other than himself been Editor, the publishers were of opinion that his consent would assuredly have been asked for permission to reproduce some of his lyrics and other pieces; while the Editor, on his part, knew

that had such consent been asked, it would have been cheerfully given. If there be, under the circumstances, an apparent sin against good taste in the matter, the publishers must bear the blame;—for it is they who have put the pressure upon the Editor, and compelled his assent to a selection, which would not have been necessary, if the original idea of the volume had been adhered to. As regards the selection itself, it claims to justify its title, and to afford a fair as well as comprehensive view of the rise, progress, and present state of English poetry. All the “Gems” in the volume are not of equal brilliancy. The diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and pearls of literature are few;—but there are other “gems” than these, of inferior value, but still gemlike;—agate, cornelian, amethyst, turquoise, onyx, and scores of others known to the lapidary and jeweller, and prized by them and by the public to whose appreciation they are offered. To the living writers, whose consent has been given to the appearance of their “gems” in these pages, the Editor offers his best thanks;—to the living writers whose consent has not been asked, he offers his apologies, and would gladly have included some specimens of their genius had time and the bulk of the volume permitted; and to those who have been asked and who have not replied, he has to explain that wherever permission was possible, he would not act without it. To the publishers of the works of authors recently deceased, and proprietors of their copyrights, he has also to offer his acknowledgments for their courtesy, and for the promptitude with which they entered into what, he supposes, would have been the feelings of those poets if they had been still alive;—the very natural desire to appear in the immortal company of the Fathers of English Song.

The Editor desires also to acknowledge thankfully the courtesy of Messrs. Ticknor and Fields, of Boston, proprietors of the works of Longfellow, Emerson, Holmes, Lowell, Whittier, &c.; and of Messrs. Appleton & Co., of New York, publishers of Bryant’s poems—in granting exclusive permission to incorporate in this volume selections from the works of those distinguished American writers.

A THOUSAND AND ONE GEMS OF ENGLISH POETRY.

[GEOFFREY CHAUCER. 1328—1400.]

PRAISE OF WOMEN.

FOR, this ye know well, tho' I woulde
lie,
In women is all truth and steadfastness;
For, in good faith, I never of them sie
But much worship, bounty, and gentle-
ness,
Right coming, fair, and full of meekness;
Good, and glad, and lowly, I you ensure,
Is this goodly and angelic creature.

And if it hap a man be in disease,
She doth her business and her full pain
With all her might him to comfort and
please,
If fro his disease him she might restrain:
In word ne deed, I wis, she wold not faine;
With all her might she doth her business
To bringen him out of his heaviness.

Lo, here what gentleness these women
have,
If we could know it for our rudeness!
How busy they be us to keep and save
Both in hele and also in sickness,
And alway right sorry for our distress!
In every manere thus shew they ruth,
That in them is all goodness and all
truth.

THE YOUNG SQUIRE.

WITH him there was his son, a youngé
Squire,
A lover and a lusty bacholer,
With lockes crull, as they were laid in
press.
Of twenty year of age he was I guess.

Of his stature he was of even length,
And wonderly deliver and great of
strength;

And he had been some time in chevachie
In Flandres, in Artois, and in Picardy,
And borne him well, as of so little space,
In hope to standen in his lady's grace

Embroidered was he, as it were a mead
All full of freshé flowers white and red.
Singing he was or fluting all the day:
He was as fresh as is the month of May.
Short was his gown, with sleeves long
and wide;

Well could he sit on horse, and fairé ride.
He couldé songes well make, and indite,
Joust, and eke dance, and well pourtray
and write.

So hot he lovéd, that by nightertale
He slept no more than doth the nightin-
gale.

Courteous he was, lowly and serviceable,
And carved before his father at the table.

ARCITA'S DYING ADDRESS.

"ALAS the wo! alas, the paines strong
That I for you have suffered, and so
long!

Alas, the death!—alas mine Emelie!
Alas, departing of our company!
Alas, mine herté's queen!—alas, my wife,
Mine herté's lady—ender of my life!

What is this world? What axen men to
have?

Now with his love, now in his coldé
grave

Alone! withouten any company,
Farewell, my sweet!—farewell, mine
Emelie!"

GOOD COUNSEL OF CHAUCER.

FLY from the press,* and dwell with
soothfastness;
Suffice unto thy good, though it be
small,
For hoard† hath hate, and climbing
tickleness;‡
Praise§ hath envie, and weal is blent
o'er all.
Savor|| no more than thee behoven
shall,
Rede¶ well thy self that other folk can't
rede,
And Truth thee shalt deliver — 'tis no
drede.**

That thee is sent receive in buxomness:
The wrestling of this world, asketh a
fall.
Here is no home, here is but wilderness.
Forth, pilgrim, forth—on, best out of
thy stall,
Look up on high, and thank the God
of all!
Weivith†† thy lust, and let thy ghost ‡‡
thee lead,
And Truth thee shalt deliver — 'tis no
drede.

[The EARL OF SURREY. 1506—1547.]

GIVE PLACE, YE LOVERS.

GIVE place, ye lovers, here before
That spent your boasts and brags in
vain;
My lady's beauty passeth more
The best of yours, I dare well sayen,
Than doth the sun the candlelight,
Or brightest day the darkest night;
And thereto hath a troth as just
As had Penelope the fair;
For what she saith ye may it trust,
As it by writing sealed were;—
And virtues hath she many mo'
Than I with pen have skill to show.

* The crowd. † Treasure. ‡ Uncertainty.
§ Commendation. || Desire. ¶ Counsel.
** Fear. †† Subdue. ‡‡ Spirit.

I could rehearse, if that I would,
The whole effect of Nature's plaint,
When she had lost the perfect mould
The like to whom she could not
paint.
With wringing hands, how did she
cry!
And what she said, I know it aye.

I know she swore, with raging mind,
Her kingdom only set apart,
There was no loss by law of kind
That could have gone so near her
heart;
And this was chiefly all her pain,—
"She could not make the like again."

Sith Nature thus gave her the praise
To be the chiefest work she wrought,
In faith, methink, some better ways
On your behalf might well be sought,
Than to compare, as ye have done,
To match the candle with the sun.

HOW NO AGE IS CONTENT
WITH ITS OWN ESTATE.

LAYD in my quiet bed in study as I
were,
I saw within my troubled head, a heap of
thoughts appear,
And every thought did shew so lyvely in
myne eyes,
That now I sight, and then I smilde, as
cause of thoughts did ryse.
I saw the little boy, in thought how oft
that he
Did wishe of God, to scape the rod, a tall
young man to be,
The young man eake that feles his bones
with paines opprest
How he would be a riche old man, to
live and lye at rest;
The riche olde man that sees his end
draw on so sore,
How he would be a boy againe to live so
much the more.
Whereat full oft I smylde, to see how all
those three
From boy to man, from man to boy,
would chop and change degree.

And musing thus, I think, the case is
 very strange,
 That man from wealth, to live in wo,
 doth ever seke to change.
 Thus thoughtfull as I lay, I sawe my
 withered skyn,
 How it doth shew my dented chewes, the
 flesh was worn so thin,
 And eke my totheless chaps, the gates of
 my right way,
 That opes and shuttes, as I do speak, do
 thus unto me say :
 The white and horish heres, the mes-
 sengers of age,
 That shew like lines of true belief, that
 this life doth assuage,
 Biddes the lay hand, and feele them
 hanging on thy chin.
 The whiche doth write to ages past, the
 third now coming in ;
 Hang up therefore the bitte, of thy yong
 wanton tyme,
 And thou that therein beaten art, the
 happiest life desyne.
 Whereat I sighed, and sayde, farewell
 my wanted toye,
 Trusse up thy packe, and trudge from me,
 to every little boy,
 And tell them thus from me, their time
 most happy is,
 If to theyr time they reason had, to know
 the truth of this.

~~~~~  
 [SIR THOMAS WYATT. 1503-1554.]

#### A DESCRIPTION OF SUCH A ONE AS HE COULD LOVE.

A FACE that should content me wonde-  
 rous well,  
 Should not be fatt, but lovely to behold,  
 Of lively look all griefe for to repell  
 With right good grace so would I that  
 it should.  
 Speak without word, such words as none  
 can tell ;  
 Her tress also should be of crisped gold.  
 With wit and these, perchaunce I might  
 be tryde  
 And knit againe with knot that should  
 not slide.

#### COMPLAINT OF THE ABSENCE OF HIS LOVE.

SOE feeble is the thred that doth the  
 burden stay,  
 Of my poor life in heavy plight that falleth  
 in decay,  
 That but it have elsewhere some ayde or  
 some succours,  
 The running spindle of my fate anon shall  
 end his course.  
 For since the unhappy houre that dyd me  
 to depart,  
 From my sweet weale one only hoape  
 hath stayed my life apart,  
 Which doth perswade such words unto  
 my sored mynde,  
 Maintaine thy selfe, O wofull wight, some  
 better luck to find.  
 For though thou be deprived from thy  
 desired sight  
 Who can thee tell, if thy returne before  
 thy more delight ;  
 Or who can tell thy loss if thou mayst  
 once recover,  
 Some pleasant houres thy wo may wrap,  
 and thee defend and cover.  
 Thus in this trust, as yet it hath my life  
 sustained,  
 But now (alas) I see it faint, and I by  
 trust am trayned.  
 The tyme doth flete, and I see how the  
 hours do bende,  
 So fast that I have scant the space to  
 marke my coming end.  
 Westward the sunn from out the east scant  
 shewd his lite,  
 When in the west he hies him straite  
 within the dark of night  
 And comes as fast, where he began his  
 path awry,  
 From east to west, from west to east, so  
 doth his journey lye.  
 Thy lyfe so short, so frayle, that mortall  
 men lyve here,  
 Soe great a weight, so heavy charge the  
 bodyes that we bere,  
 That when I think upon the distance and  
 the space,  
 That doth so farre divide me from thy  
 dere desired face,  
 I know not how t'attaine the wings that  
 I require,

To lyft me up that I might fly to follow  
 my desyre.  
 Thus of that hope that doth my lyfe some-  
 thyng susteyne, [remaine.  
 Alas I fear, and partly feel full little doth  
 Eche place doth bring me grieffe where I  
 doe not behold,  
 Those lively eyes which of my thoughts,  
 were wont the keys to hold.  
 Those thoughts were pleasant sweet whilst  
 I enjoy'd that grace,  
 My pleasure past, my present pain, when  
 I might well embrace.  
 And for because my want should more  
 my woe increase,  
 In watch and sleep both day and night  
 my will doth never cease.  
 That thing to wishe whereof synce I did  
 lose the sight,  
 Was never thing that mought in ought  
 my wofull hart delight.  
 Th' uneasy life I lead doth teach me for  
 to mete,  
 The floods, the seas, the land, the hills,  
 that doth them intermete,  
 Twene me and those shene lights that  
 wonted for to clere,  
 My darked pangs of cloudy thoughts as  
 bright as Phebus sphere;  
 It teacheth me also, what was my pleas-  
 ant state,  
 The more to feele by such record how  
 that my welth doth bate.  
 If such record (alas) provoke the inflamed  
 mynde,  
 Which sprung that day that I dyd leave  
 the best of me behynde,  
 If love forgeat himselfe by length of  
 absence let,  
 Who doth me guid (O wofull wretch)  
 unto this baited net:  
 Where doth encrease my care, much  
 better were for me,  
 As dumm as stone all things forgott, still  
 absent for to be.  
 Alas the clear christall, the bright tran-  
 splendant glasse,  
 Doth not bewray the colours hid which  
 underneath it hase.  
 As doth the accumbred sprite the  
 thoughtfull throwes discover,  
 Of teares delyte of fervent love that in  
 our hartes we cover,

Out by these eyes, it sheweth that ever  
 more delight;  
 In plaint and teares to seek redress, and  
 eke both day and night.  
 Those kindes of pleasures most wherein  
 men soe rejoice,  
 To me they do redouble still of stormy  
 sighes the voice.  
 For, I am one of them, whom plaint doth  
 well content,  
 It fits me well my absent wealth me  
 semes for to lament,  
 And with my teares t' assy to charge  
 myne eyes twayne,  
 Like as my hart above the brink is  
 fraughted full of payne.  
 And for because thereto, that these fair  
 eyes do teate,  
 Do me provoke, I will returne, my plaint  
 thus to reapeate; [within,  
 For there is nothing els, so toucheth me  
 Where they rule all, and I alone, nought  
 but the case or skin.  
 Wherefore I shall returne to them as well  
 or spring,  
 From whom descends my mortall wo,  
 above all other thing.  
 So shall myne eyes in paine accompany  
 my heart,  
 That were the guides, that did it lead of  
 love to feel the smart.  
 The crisped gold that doth surmount  
 Appolloe's pride,  
 The lively streames of pleasant starrs that  
 under it doth glyde,  
 Wherein the beames of love doe still  
 increase their heate,  
 Which yet so far touch me to near in cold  
 to make me sweat,  
 The wise and pleasant take, so rare or  
 else alone,  
 That gave to me the curties gyft, that  
 earst had never none.  
 Be far from me alas, and every other  
 thing,  
 I might forbear with better will, then  
 this that did me bring.  
 With pleasand woord and cheer, redress  
 of lingred payne,  
 And wonted oft in kindled will, to vertue  
 me to trayne.  
 Thus am I forc'd to hear and hearken  
 after news,

My comfort, scant, my large desire in  
 • doubtful trust renews.  
 And yet with more delight to move my  
 wofull case,  
 I must complaine these hands, those  
 armes, that firmly do embrace,  
 Me from myself, and rule the sterne of  
 my poor life,  
 The sweet disdaynes, the pleasant wrathes,  
 and eke the holy strife,  
 That wouted well to tune in temper just  
 and mete,  
 The rage, that oft did make me err by  
 furour indiscrete.  
 All this is hid from me with sharp and  
 ragged hills,  
 At others will my long abode, my depe  
 dyspayr fulfill.  
 And of my hope sometime ryse up by  
 some redresse,  
 It stumbleth straite for feable faint my  
 fear hath such excesse.  
 Such is the sort of hoape, the less for  
 more desyre,  
 And yet I trust e're that I dye, to see  
 that I require.  
 The resting-place of love; where virtue  
 dwells and growes,  
 There I desire my weary life sometime  
 may take repose,  
 My song, thou shalt attaine, to find the  
 pleasant place,  
 Where she doth live by whom I live, may  
 chance to have this grace.  
 When she hath read and seen, the griefe  
 wherein I serve,  
 Between her breasts she shall thee put,  
 there shall she thee reserve.  
 Then tell her, that I come, she shall me  
 shortly see,  
 And if for waight the body fayl, the soul  
 shall to her flee.

### THE LONGER LIFE THE MORE OFFENCE.

THE longer life the more offence  
 The more offence the greater paine,  
 The greater paine the lesse defence,  
 The lesse defence the lesser gaine;  
 The loss of gaine long yll doth trye,

Wherefore come death and let me dye.  
 The shorter life, less count I finde,  
 The less account the sooner made,  
 The account soon made, the merier mind,  
 The merier mynd doth thought evade;  
 Short life in truth this thing doth trye,  
 Wherefore come death and let me dye.  
 Come gentle death, the ebbe of care,  
 The ebbe of care, the flood of life,  
 The flood of life, the joyfull fare,  
 The joyfull fare, the end of strife,  
 The end of strife, that thing wish I,  
 Wherefore come death and let me die.

### THE AGED LOVER RENOUNCETH LOVE.

I LOTHE that I dyd love,  
 In youth that I thought swete,  
 As time requires for my behove,  
 Methinks they are not mete.  
 My lustes they do me leave,  
 My fancies all are fled,  
 And tract of time begynnes to weave  
 Gray heares upon my hed.  
 For age with stealing steppes  
 Hath clawde me with his crouche,  
 And lusty lyfe away she leapes  
 As there had been none such.  
 My muse doth not delight  
 Me as she dyd before,  
 My hand and pen are not in plight,  
 As they have been of yore.  
 For reason me denyes  
 This youthly ydle ryme,  
 And day by day to me cryes,  
 Leave of these toyes in tyme.  
 The wrinkles in my browe,  
 The furrows in my face,  
 Say lymping age will lodge hym now,  
 Where youth must geve him place.  
 The harbinger of death,  
 To me I see him ride,  
 The cough, the cold, the gasping breath  
 Doth byd me to provyde  
 A pickax and a spade  
 And eke a shrowding shete,  
 A house of clay for to be made.  
 For such a geaste most mete.  
 Methirkes I hear the clarke  
 That knoles the carefull knell,

And byddes me leave my woful warke,  
Ere nature me compell.

My keepers knit the knot,  
That youth did laugh to skorne,  
Of me that cleane shall be forgot,  
As I had not been borne.

Thus must I youth geve up,  
Whose badge I long dyd weare,  
To them I yelde the wanton cup,  
That better may it beare.

Lo, here the bare hed skull,  
By whose balde signe I know,  
That stouping age away shall pull  
Which youthful yeres did sowe.

For beauty with her band  
These croked cares hath wrought,  
And shipped me into the land,  
From whence I fyrst was brought.

And ye that byde behinde,  
Have ye none other trust  
As ye of clay were cast by kynd,  
So shall ye waste to dust.

~~~~~  
[ANONYMOUS. 1521.]

THE NUT-BROWN MAID.

BE it right or wrong, these men among

Of women do complain ;

Affirming this, how that it is

A labour spent in vain,

To love them well ; for never a deal

They love a man again :

For let a man do what he can,

Their favour to attain,

Yet, if a new do them pursue,

Their first true lover then

Laboureth for nought ; for from their
thought

He is a banished man.

I say not nay, but that all day

It is both writ and said,

That woman's faith is, as who saith,

All utterly decayed ;

But, nevertheless, right good witness

In this case might be laid,

That they love true, and continuë :

Record the Nut-brown Maid :

Which, when her love came, her to
prove,

To her to make his moan,

Would not depart ; for in her
heart
She loved but him alone.

Then between us let us discuss

What was all the manner

Between them two : we will also

Tell all the pain, and fear,

That she was in. Now I begin,

So that ye me answer ;

Wherefore, all ye, that present be

I pray you, give an ear.

"I am the knight ; I come by
night,

As secret as I can ;

Saying, alas ! thus standeth the
case,

I am a banished man."

SHE.—And I your will for to fulfil

In this will not refuse ;

Trusting to shew, in wordes few,

That men have an ill use

(To their own shame) women to
blame,

And causeless them accuse ;

Therefore to you I answer now,

All women to excuse,—

Mine own heart dear, with you
what cheer ?

I pray you, tell anon ;

For, in my mind, of all man
kind

I love but you alone.

HE.—It standeth so ; a deed is do

Whereof great harm shall grow

My destiny is for to die

A shameful death, I trow ;

Or else to flee : the one must be.

None other way I know,

But to withdraw as an outlaw,

And take me to my bow.

Wherefore adieu, my own heart
true !

None other rede I can :

For I must to the green wood
go,

Alone a banished man.

SHE.—O Lord, what is this worldys
bliss,
That changeth as the moon ?

My Summer's day in lusty May
Is ~~derked~~* before the noon.

I hear you say, Farewell : nay,
nay,

We depart not so soon.

Why say ye so ? whither will ye
go ?

Alas ! what have you done ?

All my welfare to sorrow and
care

Should change, if you were
gone ;

For in my mind, of all mankind

I love but you alone.

HE.—I can believe, it shall you grieve,
And somewhat you distract ;

But, afterward, your paynes hard
Within a day or twain

Shall soon aslake† : and ye shall
take

Comfort to you again.

Why should ye ought ? for to make
thought,

Your labour were in vain.

And thus I do ; and pray you to,

As hart'ly, as I can ;

For I must to the green wood go,
Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Now, sith that ye have shewed to
me

The secret of your mind,
I shall be plain to you again,

Like as ye shall me find.

Sith it is so, that ye will go,

I will not leve behind ;

Shall never be said, the nut-brown
maid

Was to her love unkind :

Make you ready, for so am I,

Although it were anon ;

For, in my mind, of all mankind,
I love but you alone.

HE.—Yet I you rede‡ to take good
heed

What men will think, and say :

Of young, and old it shall be told,

That ye be gone away,

Your wanton will for to fulfil,
In green wood you to play ;
And that ye might from your
delight

No longer make delay.

Rather than ye should thus for me

Be called an ill woman,

Yet would I to the green wood
go,

Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Though it be song of old and
young,

That I should be to blame,

Theirs be the charge, that speak
so large

In hurting of my name :

For I will prove that faithful love

It is devoid of shame ;

In your distress, and heaviness,

To part with you, the same :

And sure all those, that do not
so,

True lovers are they none ;

For, in my mind, of all mankind

I love but you alone.

HE.—I counsel you, remember how,

It is no maiden's law,

Nothing to doubt, but to run out

To wood with an outlaw :

For ye must there in your hand
bear

A bow, ready to draw,

And, as a thief, thus must you
live,

Ever in dread and awe ;

Whereby to you great harm might
grow :

Yet had I lever* than,

That I did to the green wood go,

Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—I think not nay, but as ye say,

It is no maiden's lore :

But love may make me for your
sake,

As I have said before,

To come on foot, to hunt, and
shoot

To get us meat in store ;

* Derked—darkened. † Aslake—abate.

‡ Rede—advise.

* Lever—rather.

For so that I your company
 May have, I ask no more :
 From which to part, it maketh my
 heart
 As cold as any stone ;
 For, in my mind, of all mankind
 I love but you alone.

HE.—For an outlaw this is the law,
 That men him take and bind ;
 Without pity, hanged to be,
 And waver with the wind.
 If I had need (as God forbid !)
 What rescue could ye find ?
 Forsooth, I trow, ye and your
 bow
 For fear would draw behind :
 And no marvel ; for little avail
 Were in your counsel then :
 Wherefore I will to the green wood
 go,
 Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Right well know ye that woman
 be
 But feeble for to fight ;
 No womanhede it is indeed
 To be bold as a knight :
 Yet, in such fear if that ye were
 With enemies day or night,
 I would withstand, with bow in
 hand,
 To grieve them as I might,
 And you to save ; as women have
 From death men many one ;
 For, in my mind, of all mankind
 I love but you alone.

HE.—Yet take good heed ; for ever I
 dread
 That ye could not sustain
 The thorny ways, the deep valleys,
 The snow, the frost, the rain,
 The cold, the heat : for dry, or
 wet,
 We must lodge on the plain ;
 And, us above, none other roof
 But a brake bush, or twain :
 Which soon should grieve you, I
 believe,
 And ye would gladly than
 That I had to the green wood gone,
 Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Sith I have here been partynère
 With you of joy and bliss,
 I must also part of your woe
 Endure, as reason is :
 Yet am I sure of one pleasure ;
 And shortly, it is this :
 That, where ye be, me seemeth,
 pardè,*
 I could not fare amiss.
 Without more speech, I you be-
 seech
 That we were soon agone ;
 For, in my mind, of all mankind
 I love but you alone.

HE.—If you go thither, ye must con-
 sider,
 When ye have lust to dine,
 There shall no meat be for you
 gete,
 Nor drink, beer, ale, nor wine.
 No shétes clean, to lie between,
 Made of thread and twine ;
 None other house but leaves and
 boughs,
 To cover your head and mine,
 O mine heart sweet, this evil
 dyéte
 Should make you pale and
 wan ;
 Wherefore I will to the green-
 wood go,
 Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Among the wild deer, such an
 archèr
 As men say that ye be,
 Ne may not fail of good vitayle,
 Where is so great plenty :
 And water clear of the rivèr
 Shall be full sweet to me ;
 With which in hele† I shall right
 wele
 Endure, as ye shall see ;
 And, or we go, a bed or two
 I can provide anon ;
 For, in my mind, of all mankind
 I love but you alone.

HE.—Lo yet, before, ye must do more,
 If ye will go with me :

* Pardè—in truth.

† Hele—health.

As cut your hair up by your ear,
Your kirtle by the knee;
With ~~bow~~ in hand, for to with-
stand
Your enemies, if need be :
And this same night before day-
light,
To wood-ward will I flee.
If that ye will all this fulfil,
Do it shortly as ye can :
Else will I to the green wood go,
Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—I shall as now do more for you
Than length to womanhede ;
To shote * my hair, a bow to bear,
To shoot in time of need.
O mysweet mother, before all other
For you I have most dread :
But now, adieu ! I must ensue,†
Where fortune doth me lead.
All this make ye : now let us flee ;
The day cometh fast upon ;
For, in my mind, of all mankind
I love but you alone.

HE.—Nay, nay, not so ; ye shall not go,
And I shall tell you why,—
Your appetite is to be light
Of love, I well espy :
For, like as ye have said to me,
In likewise hardly
Ye would answer whosoever it
were,
In way of company.
It is said of old, Soon hot, soon
cold :
And so is a woman.
Wherefore I to the wood will go,
Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—If you take heed, it is no need
Such words to say by me ;
For oft ye prayed, and long as-
sayed,
B'fore I you loved, pardè :
And though that I of ancestry
A baron's daughter be,
Yet have you proved how I you
loved,
A squire of low degree ;

And ever shall, whatso befall ;
To die therefore anon ;
For, in my mind, of all mankind
I love but you alone.

HE.—A baron's child to be beguil'd !
It were a cursed deed ;
To be felawe * with an outlaw !
Almighty God forbid !
Yet better were the poor squyère
Alone to forest yede,†
Than ye should say another day,
That, by my cursed deed,
Ye were betray'd : Wherefore,
good maid,
The best rede ‡ that I can,
Is, that I to the green wood go,
Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Whatever befall, I never shall
Of this thing you upbraid :
But if ye go, and leave me so,
Then have you me betray'd.
Remember you well, how that
ye deal ;
For, if ye, as ye said,
Be so unkind, to leave behind,
Your love, the Nut-brown Maid,
Trust me truly, that I shall die
Soon after ye be gone ;
For, in my mind, of all mankind
I love but you alone.

HE.—If that ye went, ye should repent ;
For in the forest now
I have purvayd § me of a maid,
Whom I love more than you ;
Another fairer than ever ye were,
I dare it well avow ;
And of you both each should be
wroth
With other as I trow :
It were mine ease to live in peace ;
So will I, if I can ;
Wherefore I to the wood will go,
Alone, a banished man.

SHE.—Though in the wood I undersood
Ye had a paramour,

* Shote—cut.

† Ensue—follow.

* Felawe—companion.
† Yede—went. ‡ Rede—advice.
§ Purvayd—provided.

All this may nought remove my thought,

But that I will be your :
And she shall find me soft and kind,

And courteous every hour ;
Glad to fulfil all that she will

Command me to my power :
For had ye, lo, an hundred mo,

"Of them I would be one,"
For, in my mind, of all mankind

I love but you alone.

HE.—Mine own dear love, I see the proof

That ye be kind and true ;
Of maid, and wife, in all my life,
The best that ever I knew.

Be merry and glad, be no more sad,

The case is changed new ;
For it were ruth, that, for your truth,
Ye should have cause to rue.

Be not dismayed ; whatsoever I said

To you when I began ;
I will not to the green wood go ;
I am no banished man.

SHE.—These tidings be more glad to me,
Than to be made a queen,

If I were sure they should endure ;
But it is often seen,

When men will break promise,
they speak

The wordes on the spleen.
Ye shape some wile me to beguile,

And steal from me, I ween :
Then were the case worse than it was,

And I more woe-begone ;
For, in my mind, of all mankind
I love but you alone.

HE.—Ye shall not need further to dread ;
I will not disparage

You (God defend !), sith ye descend

Of so great lineage.

Now understand ; to Westmoreland,

Which is mine heritage,

I will you bring ; and with a ring,
By way of marriage

I will you take, and lady make,
As shortly as I can :

Thus have you won an Erly's son,
And not a banished man.

AUTHOR.—Here may ye see, that woman be

In love, meek, kind and stable :
Let never man reprove them then,

Or call them variable ;
But rather pray God that we may

To them be comfortable ;
Which sometimes proveth such,

as he loveth,
If they be charitable.

For sith men would that women should

Be meek to them each one ;
Much more ought they to God

obey,
And serve but him alone.

[BEN JONSON. 1573-1637.]

TO CELIA.

I.

Drink to me only with thine eyes,
And I will pledge with mine ;

Or leave a kiss within the cup,
And I'll not look for wine.

The thirst that from the soul doth rise,
Doth ask a drink divine :

But might I of Jove's nectar sup,
I would not change for thine.

II.

I sent thee late a rosy wreath,
Not so much honouring thee,

As giving it a hope, that there
It could not withered be ;

But thou thereon didst only breathe,
And sent'st it back to me,

Since when it grows, and smells, I swear,
Not of itself but thee.

EPITAPH ON THE COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE.

UNDERNEATH this sable hearse,
Lies the subject of all verse,

Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother ;
 Death, ere thou has slain another,
 Learned, and fair, and good as she,
 Time shall throw a dart at thee !

SONG OF HESPERUS.

(From "Cynthia's Revels.")

QUEEN and huntress, chaste and fair,
 Now the sun is laid to sleep,
 Seated in thy silver chair,
 State in wonted manner keep.
 Hesperus oft treats thy light,
 Goddess excellently bright !

Earth, let not thy envious shade
 Dare itself to interpose ;
 Cynthia's shining orb was made
 Heaven to clear, when day did close.
 Bless us then with wished sight,
 Goddess excellently bright !

Lay thy bow of pearl apart,
 And thy crystal-shining quiver :
 Give unto the flying hart
 Space to breathe how short soever ;
 Thou that mak'st a day of night,
 Goddess excellently bright !

THE SWEET NEGLECT.

STILL to be neat, still to be drest,
 As you were going to a feast :
 Still to be poud'red, still perfum'd :
 Lady, it is to be presum'd,
 Though art's hid causes are not found,
 All is not sweet, all is not sound.

Give me a looke, give me a face,
 That makes simplicitie a grace ;
 Robes loosely flowing, haire as free :
 Such sweet neglect more taketh me,
 Than all th' adulteries of art,
 That strike mine eyes, but not my heart.

ELEGY ON SHAKSPEARE.

To draw no envy, Shakspeare, on thy
 name,
 Am I thus ample to thy book and fame :

While I confess thy writings to be such,
 As neither man nor muse can praise too
 much.

* * * * *

Soul of the age !

Th' applause ! delight ! the wonder of
 our stage !

My Shakspeare rise ! I will not lodge
 thee by

Chaucer, or Spenser, or bid Beaumont lie
 A little further, to make thee a room :
 Thou art a monument without a tomb,
 And art alive still, while thy book doth
 live,
 And we have wits to read, and praise to
 give.

That I not mix thee so, my brain excuses,
 I mean with great, but disproportion'd
 muses :

For if I thought my judgment were of
 years,

I should commit thee surely with thy
 peers,

And tell how far thou didst our Lily out-
 shine,

Or sportive Kyd, or Marlowe's mighty
 line.

And though thou hadst small Latin and
 less Greek,

From thence to honour thee, I will not
 seek

For names ; but call forth thund'ring
 Eschylus,

Euripides, and Sophocles to us,
 Pacuvius, Accius, him of Cordova dead,

To live again, to hear thy buskin tread,
 And shake a stage ; or when thy socks
 were on,

Leave thee alone for the comparison
 Of all, that insolent Greece, or haughty
 Rome

Sent forth, or since did from their ashes
 come.

Triumph, my Britain, thou hast one to
 show

To whom all scenes of Europe homage
 owe.

He was not of an age, but for all time !
 And all the muses still were in their
 prime,

When, like Apollo, he came forth to
 warm

Our ears, or like a Mercury to charm !

Nature herself was proud of his designs,
And joyed to wear the dressing of his
lines !
* * * * *

Sweet swan of Avon ! what a sight it were
To see thee in our water yet appear,
And make those flights upon the banks of
Thames,

That so did take Eliza, and our James !
But stay, I see thee in the hemisphere
Advanc'd, and made a constellation there !
Shine forth, thou star of poets, and with
rage,

Or influence, chide, or cheer the droop-
ing stage,

Which, since thy flight from hence, hath
mourn'd like night,
And despairs day, but for thy volumes
light.

JEALOUSY.

WRETCHED and foolish Jealousy,
How cam'st thou thus to enter me ?

I ne'er was of thy kind :
Nor have I yet the narrow mind
To vent that poor desire,
That others should not warm them at my
fire :

I wish the sun should shine
On all men's fruits and flowers, as well
as mine.

But under the disguise of love,
Thou say'st thou only cam'st to prove
What my affections were.

Think'st thou that love is helped by
fear ?

Go, get thee quickly forth,
Love's sickness, and his noted want of
worth,

Seek doubting men to please,
I ne'er will owe my health to a disease.

COME LEAVE THE LOATHED STAGE.

COME leave the loathed stage,
And the more loathsome age,
Where pride and impudence (in fashion
knit),
Usurp the chair of wit !

Inditing and arraigning every day,
Something they call a play.

Let their fastidious, va'n
Commission of the brain
Run on, and rage, sweat, censure, and
condemn :
They were not made for thee, less thou
for them.

Say that thou pour'st them wheat,
And they will acorns eat ;
'Twere simple fury still thyself to waste
On such as have no taste !
To offer them a surfeit of pure bread,
Whose appetites are dead !
No, give them grains their fill,
Husks, draff to drink and swill.
If they love lees, and leave the lusty wine,
Envy them not their palates with the
swine.

No doubt some mouldy tale,
Like Pericles, and stale
As the shrieves crusts, and nasty as his
fish-

Scraps, out of every dish
Thrown forth, and rank'd into the com-
mop tub,

May keep up the play-club :
There sweepings do as well
As the best order'd meal.
For who the relish of these guests will fit,
Needs set them but the alms-basket of wit.

And much good do't you then :
Brave plush and velvet men
Can feed on orts : and safe in your stage-
clothes,

Dare quit upon your oaths,
The stagers and the stage-wrights too
(your peers)

Of larding your large ears
With their foul comic socks ;
Wrought upon twenty blocks ;
Which, if they are torn, and turn'd, and
patch'd enough,
The gamesters share your guilt, and you
their stuff.

Leave things so prostitute,
And take the Alcæic lute ;
Or thine own Horace, or Anacreon's lyre,
Warm thee by Pindar's fire :

And though thy nerves be shrunk, and
 blood be cold,
 Ere years have made thee old ;
 Strike that disdainful heat
 Throughout to their defeat :
 As curious fools, and envious of thy strain,
 May, blushing, swear no palsy's in thy
 brain.

But when they hear thee sing
 The glories of thy king,
 His zeal to God, and his just awe o'er
 men :

They may, blood-shaken then,
 Feel such a flesh-quake to possess their
 powers ;

As they shall cry, like ours,
 In sound of peace or wars,
 No harp e'er hit the stars,
 In tuning forth the acts of his sweet
 reign :
 And raising Charles his chariot 'bove his
 waine.

~~~~~ EPITAPH ON A LADY.

UNDERNEATH this stone doth lie
 As much beauty as could die :
 Which in life did harbour give
 To more virtue than doth live.
 If, at all, she had a fault,
 Leave it buried in this vault.

~~~~~ WOMEN MEN'S SHADOWS.

FOLLOW a shadow, it still flies you,
 Seem to fly it, it will pursue :
 So court a mistress, she denies you ;
 Let her alone, she will court you.
 Say are not women truly, then,
 Styled but the shadows of us men.

~~~~~  
 [MICHAEL DRAYTON. 1563—1631.]

#### THE QUEST OF CYNTHIA.

WHAT time the groves were clad in green,  
 The fields drest all in flowers,  
 And that the sleek-hair'd nymphs were  
 seen  
 To seek them summer bowers.

Forth rov'd I by the sliding rills,  
 To find where Cynthia sat,  
 Whose name so often from the hills  
 The echoes wonder'd at.

When me upon my quest to bring,  
 That pleasure might excel,  
 The birds strove which should sweetliest  
 sing,  
 The flow'r's which should sweetest  
 smell.

Long wand'ring in the wood, said I,  
 "O whither's Cynthia gone ?"  
 When soon the echo doth reply  
 To my last word—"Go on."

At length upon a lofty fir  
 It was my chance to find,  
 Where that dear name most due to her  
 Was carv'd upon the rind.

Which whilst with wonder I beheld,  
 The bees their honey brought,  
 And up the carved letters fill'd,  
 As they with gold were wrought.

And near that tree's more spacious  
 root,  
 Then looking on the ground,  
 The shape of her most dainty foot  
 Imprinted there I found.

Which stuck there like a curious seal,  
 As though it should forbid  
 Us, wretched mortals, to reveal  
 What under it was hid.

Besides, the flowers which it had press'd,  
 Appeared to my view  
 More fresh and lovely than the rest,  
 That in the meadows grew.

The clear drops, in the steps that  
 stood  
 Of that delicious girl,  
 The nymphs, amongst their dainty food,  
 Drunk for dissolved pearl.

The yielding sand, where she had trod,  
 Untouch'd yet with the wind,  
 By the fair posture plainly shew'd  
 Where I might Cynthia find.

When on upon my wayless walk  
As my desires me draw,  
I like a madman fell to talk  
With everything I saw.

I ask'd some lilies, "Why so white  
They from their fellows were?"  
Who answer'd me, "That Cynthia's sight  
Had made them look so clear."

I ask'd a nodding violet, "Why  
It sadly hung the head?"  
It told me, "Cynthia late past by,"  
Too soon from it that fled.

A bed of roses saw I there,  
Bewitching with their grace,  
Besides so wond'rous sweet they were,  
That they perfum'd the place.

I of a shrub of those inquir'd,  
From others of that kind,  
Who with such virtue them inspir'd?  
It answer'd (to my mind):

"As the base hemlock were we such,  
The poisoned'st weed that grows,  
Till Cynthia, by her godlike touch,  
Transform'd us to the rose.

"Since when those frosts that winter  
brings  
Which candy every green,  
Renew us like the teeming springs,  
And we thus fresh are seen."

At length I on a fountain light,  
Whose brim with pinks was platted,  
The bank with daffodillies dight  
With grass like sleeve was matted:

When I demanded of that well  
What pow'r frequented there;  
Desiring it would please to tell  
What name it us'd to bear:

It told me, "It was Cynthia's own,  
Within whose cheerful brims,  
That curious nymph had oft been known  
To bathe her snowy limbs;

"Since when that water had the pow'r  
Lost maidenhoods to restore

And make one twenty in an hour,  
Of Æson's age before."

And told me, "That the bottom clear,  
Now lay'd with many a fett  
Of seed pearl, e'er she bath'd her there  
Was known as black as jet:

"As when she from the water came  
Where first she touch'd the mould,  
In balls the people made the same  
For pomander, and sold."

When chance me to an 'arbour led,  
Whereas I might behold;  
Two blest elysiums in one sted,  
The less the great infold;

The place which she had chosen out,  
Herself in to repose:  
Had they come down the gods no  
doubt  
The very same had chose.

The wealthy Spring yet never bore  
That sweet, nor dainty flower,  
That damask'd not the chequer'd floor  
Of Cynthia's summer bower.

The birch, the myrtle, and the bay,  
Like friends did all embrace;  
And their large branches did display,  
To canopy the place.

Where she like Venus doth appear  
Upon a rosy bed;  
As lilies the soft pillows were,  
Whereon she lay'd her head.

Heav'n on her shape such cost bestow'd,  
And with such bounties blest,  
No limb of hers but might have made  
A goddess at the least.

The flies by chance mesh'd in her hair,  
By the bright radiance thrown  
From her clear eyes, rich jewels were,  
They so like diamonds shone.

The meanest weed the soil there bare,  
Her breath did so refine,  
That it with woodbine durst compare,  
And eke the eglantine.

The dew which on the tender grass  
The evening had distill'd,  
To pure rose-water turned was,  
The shades with sweets that fill'd.

The winds were hush'd, no leaf so small  
At all was seen to stir :  
Whilst tuning to the waters' fall  
The small birds sing to her.

Where she too quickly me espies,  
When I too plainly see  
A thousand cupids from her eyes  
Shoot all at once at me.

"Into these secret shades (quoth she)  
How dar'st thou be so bold  
To enter, consecrate to me,  
Or touch this hallowed mould ?

"Those words (quoth she) I can pronounce,  
Which to that shape can bring  
Thee, which that hunter had, who once  
Saw Dian in the spring."

"Bright nymph (again I thus reply),  
This cannot me afright :  
I had rather in thy presence die,  
Than live out of thy sight.

"I first upon the mountains high  
Built altars to thy name,  
And grav'd it on the rocks thereby,  
To propagate thy fame.

"I taught the shepherds on the downs  
Of thee to form their lays :  
'Twas I that fill'd the neighbouring towns  
With ditties of thy praise.

"Thy colours I devis'd with care,  
Which were unknown before :  
Which since that in their braided hair  
The nymphs and sylvans wore.

"Transform me to what shape you can,  
I pass not what it be :  
Yea, what most hateful is to man,  
So I may follow thee."

Which when she heard, full pearly floods  
I in her eyes might view.

(Quoth she), "Most welcome to these woods  
Too mean for one so true.

"Here from the hateful world we'll live,  
A den of mere despoit :  
To idiots only that doth give,  
Which be for sole delight.

"To people the infernal pit,  
That more and more doth strive ;  
Where only villany is wit,  
And devils only thrive.

"Whose vileness us shall never awe :  
But here our sports shall be  
Such as the golden world first saw,  
Most innocent and free.

"Of simples in these groves that grow,  
We'll learn the perfect skill :  
The nature of each herb to know,  
Which cures and which can kill.

"The waxen palace of the bee,  
We seeking will surprise,  
The curious workmanship to see  
Of her full-laden thighs.

"We'll suck the sweets out of the comb  
And make the gods repine,  
As they do feast in Jove's great room,  
To see with what we dine.

"Yet when there haps a honey fall,  
We'll lick the syrup'd leaves,  
And tell the bees that theirs is gall  
To this upon the graveas.

"The nimble squirrel noting here,  
Her mossy dray that makes,  
And laugh to see the dusty deer  
Come bounding o'er the brakes.

"The spider's web to watch we'll stand,  
And when it takes the bee,  
We'll help out of the tyrant's hand  
The innocent to free.

"Sometime we'll angle at the brook,  
The freckled trout to take,  
With silken worms and bait the hocks  
Which him our prey shall make.

"Of meddling with such subtle tools,  
Such dangers that enclose,  
The moral is, that painted fools  
Are caught with silken shews.

"And when the moon doth once appear,  
We'll trace the lower grounds,  
When fairies in their ringlets there  
Do dance their nightly rounds.

"And have a flock of turtle doves,  
A guard on us to keep,  
As witness of our honest loves,  
To watch us till we sleep."

Which spoke, I felt such holy fires  
To overspread my breast,  
As lent life to my chaste desires,  
And gave me endless rest.

By Cynthia thus do I subsist,  
On earth heaven's only pride ;  
Let her be mine, and let who list  
Take all the world beside.

#### THE TRENT.

NEAR to the silver Trent  
Sirena dwelleth,  
She to whom nature lent  
All that excelleth ;  
By which the Muses late,  
And the neat Graces,  
Have for their greater state  
Taken their places ;  
Twisting an Anadem,  
Wherewith to crown her,  
As it belong'd to them  
Most to renown her.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
In a rank  
Let thy swans sing her,  
And with their music  
Along let them bring her.*

Tagus and Pactolus  
Are to thee debtor,  
Nor for their gold to us  
Are they the better ;  
Henceforth of all the rest,  
Be thou the river,

Which as the dainties  
Puts them down ever.

For as my precious one  
O'er thee doth travel,  
She to pearl paragon  
Turneth thy gravel.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
In a rank  
Let thy swans sing her,  
And with their music  
Along let them bring her*

Our mournful Philomel,  
That rarest tuner,  
Henceforth in April  
Shall wake the sooner,  
And to her shall complain  
From the thick cover,  
Redoubling every strain  
Over and over :  
For when my love too long  
Her chamber keepeth ;  
As though it suffered wrong,  
The morning weepeth.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
In a rank  
Let thy swans sing her,  
And with their music  
Along let them bring her.*

Oft have I seen the Sun,  
To do her honour,  
Fix himself at his noon  
To look upon her,  
And hath gilt every grove,  
Every hill near her,  
With his flames from above,  
Striving to cheer her :  
And when she from his sight  
Hath herself turned,  
He, as it had been night,  
In clouds hath mourned.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
In a rank  
Let thy swans sing her,  
And with their music  
Along let them bring her.*

The verdant meads are seen,  
When she doth view them,  
In fresh and gallant green  
Strait to renew them,

And every little grass  
 • Broad itself spreadeth,  
 Proud that this bonny lass  
 Upon it treadeth :  
 Nor flower is so sweet  
 In this large cincture,  
 But it upon her feet  
 Leaveth some tincture.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 Along let them bring her.*

The fishes in the flood  
 When she doth angle,  
 For the hook strive agood  
 Them to entangle ;  
 And leaping on the land  
 From the clear water,  
 Their scales upon the sand  
 Lavishly scatter ;  
 Therewith to pave the mold  
 Whereon she passes,  
 So herself to behold  
 As in her glasses.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 • Along let them bring her.*

When she looks out by night  
 The stars stand gazing,  
 Like comets to our sight  
 Fearfully blazing ;  
 As wond'ring at her eyes,  
 With their much brightness,  
 Which so amaze the skies,  
 Dimming their lightness.  
 The raging tempests are calm  
 When she speaketh,  
 Such most delightful balm  
 From her lips breaketh.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 Along let them bring her.*

In all our Brittany  
 There's not a fairer,

Nor can you fit any,  
 Should you compare her,  
 Angels her eye-lids keep,  
 All hearts surprising ;  
 Which look while she doth sleep  
 Like the sun's rising :  
 She alone of her kind  
 Knoweth true measure,  
 And her unmatched mind  
 Is heaven's treasure.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 Along let them bring her.*

Fair Dove and Darwent clear,  
 Boast ye your beauties,  
 To Trent your mistress here  
 Yet pay your duties.  
 My love was higher born  
 Tow'rd's the full fountains,  
 Yet she doth moorland scorn  
 And the Peak mountains ;  
 Nor would she none should dream  
 Where she abideth,  
 Humble as is the stream,  
 Which by her slideth.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 Along let them bring her*

Yet my poor rustic Muse,  
 Nothing can move her,  
 Nor the means I can use,  
 Though her true lover :  
 Many a long winter's night  
 Have I wak'd for her,  
 Yet this my piteous plight  
 Nothing can stir her.  
 All thy sands, silver Trent,  
 Down to the Humber,  
 The sighs that I have spent  
 Never can number.

*Chorus.—On thy bank  
 In a rank  
 Let thy swans sing her,  
 And with their music  
 Along let them bring her*



## TO HIS COY LOVE.

I PRAY thee love, love me no more,  
 Call home the heart you gave me,  
 I but in vain that saint adore,  
 That can, but will not save me :  
 These poor half kisses kill me quite ;  
 Was ever man thus served ?  
 Amidst an ocean of delight,  
 For pleasure to be starved.

Show me no more those snowy breasts,  
 With azure rivers branched,  
 Where whilst my eye with plenty feasts,  
 Yet is my thirst not stanch'd.  
 O Tantalus, thy pains ne'er tell,  
 By me thou art prevented ;  
 'T is nothing to be plagu'd in hell,  
 But thus in heaven tormented.

Clip me no more in those dear arms,  
 Nor thy life's comfort call me ;  
 O, these are but too powerful charms,  
 And do but more enthrall me.  
 But see how patient I am grown,  
 In all this coyle about thee ;  
 Come, nice thing, let thy heart alone,  
 I cannot live without thee.

## THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

FAIR stood the wind for France  
 When we our sails advance,  
 Nor now to prove our chance  
 Longer will tarry ;  
 But putting to the main,  
 At Kaux, the mouth of Seine,  
 With all his martial train,  
 Landed King Harry.

And taking many a fort,  
 Furnish'd in warlike sort  
 March'd towards Agincourt  
 In happy hour ;  
 Skirmishing day by day  
 With those that stop'd his way,  
 Where the French gen'ral lay  
 With all his power.

Which in his height of pride,  
 King Henry to deride,

His ransom to provide  
 To the King, serding ;  
 Which he neglects the while,  
 As from a nation vile  
 Yet with an angry smile,  
 Their fall portending.

And turning to his men,  
 Quoth our brave Henry then,  
 Though they to one be ten,  
 Be not amazed.  
 Yet, have we well begun,  
 Battles so bravely won  
 Have ever to the sun  
 By fame been raised.

And for myself, quoth he,  
 This my full rest shall be,  
 England ne'er mourn for me.  
 Nor more esteem me.  
 Victor I will remain,  
 Or on this earth lie slain,  
 Never shall she sustain  
 Loss to redeem me.

Poictiers and Cressy tell,  
 When most their pride did swell,  
 Under our swords they fell,  
 No less our skill is,  
 Than when our grandsire great,  
 Claiming the regal seat,  
 By many a warlike feat,  
 Lop'd the French lilies.

The Duke of York so dread,  
 The eager vanward led ;  
 With the main Henry sped,  
 Amongst his henchmen.  
 Excester had the rear,  
 A braver man not there,  
 O Lord how hot they were  
 On the false Frenchmen !

They now to fight are gone,  
 Armour on armour shone,  
 Drum now to drum did groan  
 To hear, was wonder ;  
 That with cries they make,  
 The very earth did shake,  
 Trumpet to trumpet spake,  
 Thunder to thunder.

Well it thine age became,  
 O noble Erpingham,  
 Which did the signal aim  
     To our hid forces;  
 When from a meadow by,  
 Like a storm suddenly,  
 The English archery  
     Stuck the French horses.

With Spanish yew so strong,  
 Arrows a cloth-yard long,  
 That like to serpents stung  
     Piercing the weather;  
 None from his fellow starts,  
 But playing manly parts,  
 And like true English hearts,  
     Stuck close together.

When down their bows they threw  
 And forth their bilbows drew,  
 And on the French they flew;  
     Not one was tardy;  
 Arms were from shoulders sent,  
 Scalps to the teeth were rent,  
 Down the French peasants went,  
     Our men were hardy.

This while our noble king,  
 His broad sword brandishing,  
 Down the French host did ding,  
     As to o'erwhelm it;  
 And many a deep wound lent,  
 His arms with blood besprent  
 And many a cruel dent  
     Bruised his helmet.

Glo'ster, that duke so good,  
 Next of the royal blood,  
 For famous England stood,  
     With his brave brother,  
 Clarence, in steel so bright,  
 Though but a maiden knight,  
 Yet in that furious fight  
     Scarce such another.

Warwick in blood did wade,  
 Oxford the foe invade,  
 And cruel slaughter made,  
     Still as they ran up;  
 Suffolk his axe did ply,  
 Beaumont and Willoughby  
 Bare their right doughtily,  
     • Ferrers and Fanhope.

Upon Saint Crispin's day  
 Fought was this noble fray,  
 Which fame did not delay,  
     To England to carry;  
 O when shall Englishmen  
 With such acts fill a pen,  
 Or England breed again  
     Such a King Harry!

## SONNET.

LOVE in a humour play'd the prodigal,  
 And bad my senses to a solemn feast;  
 Yet more to grace the company withal,  
 Invites my heart to be the chiefest guest:  
 No other drink would serve this glutton's  
     turn  
 But precious tears distilling from mine  
     eyne,  
 Which with my sighs this epicure doth  
     burn,  
 Quaffing carouses in this costly wine;  
 Where, in his cups o'ercome with foul  
     excess,  
 Straightways he plays a swaggering ruf-  
     fian's part,  
 And at the banquet in his drunkenness,  
 Slew his dear friend, my kind and truest  
     heart:  
 A gentle warning (friends) thus may  
     you see,  
 What 'tis to keep a drunkard company.

## SONNET.

If he, from heaven that filch'd that living  
     fire,  
 Condemn'd by Jove to endless torment be,  
 I greatly marvel how you still go free,  
 That far beyond Prometheus did aspire:  
 The fire he stole, although of heavenly  
     kind,  
 Which from above he craftily did take,  
 Of lifeless clods, us living men to make,  
 He did bestow in temper of the mind:  
 But you broke into heav'n's immortal  
     store,  
 Where virtue, honour, wit, and beauty  
     lay;  
 Which taking thence you have escap'd  
     away,

Yet stand as free as e'er you did before:  
 Yet old Prometheus punish'd for his  
 rape:  
 Thus poor thieves suffer, when the  
 greater 'scape.

KING HENRY TO FAIR  
 ROSAMOND.

THE little flow'rs dropping their honey'd  
 dew,  
 Which (as thou writ'st) do weep upon thy  
 shoe,  
 Not for thy fault (sweet Rosamond) do  
 moan,  
 Only lament that thou so soon art gone:  
 For if thy foot touch hemlock as it goes,  
 That hemlock's made far sweeter than the  
 rose.

My camp resounds with fearful shocks of  
 war,  
 Yet in my breast more dang'rous conflicts  
 are;  
 Yet is my signal to the battle's sound  
 The blessed name of beauteous Rosamond.  
 Accused be that heart, that tongue, that  
 breath,  
 Should think, should speak, or whisper  
 of thy death:  
 For in one smile or lower from thy sweet  
 eye  
 Consists my life, my hope, my victory.  
 Sweet Woodstock, where my Rosamond  
 doth rest,  
 Be blest in her, in whom thy king is blest:  
 For though in France awhile my body be,  
 My heart remains (dear paradise) in thee.

LOVE BANISHED HEAVEN.

SONNET.

LOVE banish'd heaven, in earth was held  
 in scorn,  
 Wand'ring abroad in need and beggary;  
 And wanting friends, though of a goddess  
 born,  
 Yet craw'd the alms of such as passed by:  
 I like a man devout and charitable,  
 Clothed the naked, lodg'd this wand'ring  
 guest,

With sighs and tears still furnishing his  
 table,  
 With what might mak'd the miserable  
 blest;  
 But this ungrateful, for my good desert.  
 Entic'd my thoughts against me to con-  
 spire,  
 Who gave consent to steal away my heart,  
 And set my breast his lodging on a fire.  
 Well, well, my friends, when beggars  
 grow thus bold,  
 No marvel then though charity grow  
 cold.

[WILLIAM DRUMMOND. 1585—1649.]

TO A NIGHTINGALE.

SWEET bird, that sing'st away the early  
 hours  
 Of winters past, or coming, void of care,  
 We'd pleased with delights which present  
 are,  
 Fair seasons, budding sprays, sweet-  
 smelling flowers:  
 To rocks, to springs, to rills, from leafy  
 bowers  
 Thou thy Creator's goodness dost declare,  
 And what dear gifts on thee he did not  
 spare,—  
 A stain to human sense in sin that lowers.  
 What soul can be so sick, which by thy  
 songs  
 (Attired in sweetness) sweetly is not  
 driven  
 Quite to forget Earth's turmoils, spites,  
 and wrongs,  
 And lift a reverend eye and thought to  
 Heaven?  
 Sweet, artless songster, thou my mind  
 dost raise  
 To airs of spheres, yes, and to angels'  
 lays.

A GOOD THAT NEVER SATISFIES  
 THE MIND.

A GOOD that never satisfies the mind,  
 A beauty fading like the April flow'rs,  
 A sweet with floods of gall, that runs  
 combin'd

A pleasure passing ere in thought made  
ours,  
An honour that more fickle is than  
wind,  
A glory at opinion's frown that low'rs,  
A treasury which bankrupt time devours,  
A knowledge than grave ignorance more  
blind,  
A vain delight our equals to command,  
A style of greatness, in effect a dream,  
A swelling thought of holding sea and  
land,  
A servile lot, deck'd with a pompous  
name,  
Are the strange ends we toil for here  
below,  
Till wisest death make us our errors  
know.

[JOHN DONNE. 1573—1631.]

#### THE MESSAGE.

SEND home my long stray'd eyes to  
me,  
Which, oh! too long have dwelt on  
thee;  
But if they there have learn'd such ill,  
Such forc'd fashions  
And false passions,  
That they be  
Made by thee  
Fit for no good sight, keep them still.

Send home my harmless heart again,  
Which no unworthy thought could  
stain;  
But if it be taught by thine  
To make jestings  
Of protestings,  
And break both  
Word and oath,  
Keep it still, 'tis none of mine.

Yet send me back my heart and eyes,  
That I may know and see thy lies,  
And may laugh and joy when thou  
Art in anguish,  
And dost anguish  
For some one  
That will none,  
Or prove as false as thou dost now.

[WILLIAM BROWNE. 1590—1645.]

#### WILLY, OR GLIDE SOFT YE SILVER FLOODS.

GLIDE soft ye silver floods,  
And every spring :  
Within the shady woods,  
Let no bird sing !  
Nor from the grove a turtle dove  
Be seen to couple with her love,  
But silence on each dale and mountain  
dwell,  
Whilst Willy bids his friend and joy  
farewell.

But (of great Thetis' train)  
Ye mermaids fair,  
That on the shores do plain  
Your sea-green hair,  
As ye in trammels knit your locks  
Weep ye ; and so enforce the rocks  
In heavy murmurs through the broad  
shores tell  
How Willy bade his friend and joy fare-  
well.

Cease, cease, ye murmuring winds  
To move a wave ;  
But if with troubled minds  
You seek his grave ;  
Know 'tis as various as yourselves,  
Now in the deep, then on the shelves,  
His coffin toss'd by fish and surges fell,  
Whilst Willy weeps and bids all joy fare-  
well.

Had he, Arion like,  
Been judg'd to drown,  
He on his lute could strike  
So rare a swon ;  
A thousand dolphins would have  
come,  
And jointly strive to bring him  
home.  
But he on shipboard dy'd, by sickness fell,  
Since when his Willy bade all joy farewell.

Great Neptune hear a swain !  
His coffin take,  
And with a golden chain  
(For pity) make  
It fast unto a rock near land !

Where ev'ry calmy morn I'll stand,  
And ere one sheep out of my fold I tell,  
Sad Willy's pipe shall bid his friend fare-  
well.

~~~~~  
ABRAHAM COWLEY. 1618—1667.]

ON THE DEATH OF CRASHAW.

POET and Saint ! to thee alone are giv'n
The two most sacred names of earth and
heav'n,
The hard and rarest union which can be,
Next that of Godhead with humanity.
Long did the Muses banish'd slaves abide,
And built vain pyramids to mortal pride ;
Like Moses thou (tho' spells and charms
withstand)
Hast brought them nobly home back to
their Holy Land.

Ah, wretched We ! poets of earth !
but thou
Wert living the same poet which thou'rt
now.

Whilst angels sing to thee their airs
divine,
And joy in an applause so great as thine,
Equal society with them to hold,
Thou need'st not make new songs, but
say the old :

And they, kind Spirits ! Shall all rejoice
to see

How little less than they exalted man
may be.

~~~~~ LIBERTY.

WHERE honour, or where conscience does
not bind,

No other law shall shackle me ;

Slave to myself I will not be :

Nor shall my future actions be confin'd

By my own present mind.

Who by resolves and vows engag'd does
stand

For days that yet belong to Fate,

Does, like an unthrift, mortgage his es-
tate

Before it falls into his hand.

The bondman of the cloister so

All that he does receive does always owe ;

And still as time comes in, it goes away,
Not to enjoy, but debts to pay.

Unhappy slave ! and pupil to a bell ?

Which his hour's work, as well as hours,
does tell !

Unhappy to the last, the kind releasing
knell.

~~~~~ WHAT SHALL I DO ?

WHAT shall I do to be for ever known,

And make the age to come my own ?

I shall like beasts or common people
die,

Unless you write my elegy ;

Whilst others great by being born are
grown,

Their mother's labour, not their own.

In this scale gold, in th' other fame does
lie :

The weight of that mounts this so high.

These men are Fortune's jewels, moulded
bright,

Brought forth with their own fire and
light.

If I, her vulgar stone, for either look,

Out of myself it must be strook.

Yet I must on : What sound is't strikes
mine ear ?

Sure I Fame's trumpet hear :

It sounds like the last trumpet, for it can
Raise up the bury'd man.

Unpass'd Alps stop me, but I'll cut
through all,

And march, the Muse's Hannibal.

Hence, all the flatt'ring vanities that lay

Nets of roses in the way ;

Hence, the desire of honours or estate,

And all that is not above Fate ;

Hence, Love himself, that tyrant of my
days,

Which intercepts my coming praise.

Come, my best Friends ! my books ! and
lead me on,

'Tis time that I were gone.

Welcome, great Stagirate ! and teach me
now

All I was born to know :

Thy scholar's vict'ries thou dost far out-
do ;

He conquer'd the earth, the whole world
you.

Welcome, learn'd Cicero ! whose bless'd
tongue and wit

Preserves Rome's greatness yet :
Thou art the first of orators ; only he
Who best can praise thee next must be.
Welcome the Mantuan swan ! Virgil the
wise,

Whose verse walks highest, but not flies ;
Who brought green Poesy to her perfect
age,

And made that art which was a rage.
Tell me, ye mighty Three ! what shall I do
To be like one of you ?

But you have climb'd the mountain's top,
there sit

On the calm flourishing head of it,
And whilst with wearied steps, we up-
ward go,

See us and clouds below.

LOVE IN HER SUNNY EYES.

Love in her sunny eyes does basking
play :

Love walks the pleasant mazes of her
hair ;

Love does on both her lips *for ever
stray,

And sows and reaps a thousand kisses
there ;

In all her outward parts Love's always
seen,

But, Oh ! he never went within.

THE SOUL.

If mine eyes do e'er declare
They've seen a second thing that's fair ;

Or ears that they have music found,
Besides thy voice, in any sound ;

If my taste do ever meet,
After thy kiss with ought that's sweet ;

If my abused touch allow
Ought to be smooth or soft but thou !

If what seasonable springs,
Or the eastern summer brings,

Do my small persuade at all
Ought perfume but thy breath to call ;

If all my senses objects be
Not contracted into thee,

And so through thee more pow'ful pass,

As beams do through a burning-glass ;
If all things that in nature are
Either soft, or sweet, or fair,
Be not in thee so epitomiz'd,
That nought material's not compris'd,
May I as worthless seem to thee,
As all but thou appear to me.

THE WISH.

WELL, then, I now do plainly see,
This busy world and I shall ne'er agree,
The very honey of all earthly joy
Does of all meats the soonest cloy :
And they (methinks) deserve my pity
Who for it can endure the stings,
The crowd, and buz, and murmurings,
Of this great hive, the City.

Ah ! yet, e'er I descend to the grave,
May I a small house and large garden
have !

And a few friends, and many books, both
true,

Both wise, and both delightful too !
And since Love ne'er will from me flee,
A mistress moderately fair,
And good as guardian angels are,
Only belov'd, and loving me !

AN IMPRECATION AGAINST CIVIL STRIFE.

CURS'D be the man (what do I wish ? as
though

The wretch already were not so ;
But curs'd on let him be) who thinks it
brave

And great his country to enslave ;
Who seeks to overpoise alone

The balance of a nation :
Against the whole, but naked state,
Who in his own light scale makes up with
arms the weight.

Who of his nation loves to be the first,
Though at the rate of being worst,
Who would be rather a great monster,
than

A well proportion'd man ;
The sun of earth, with hundred hands.

Upon his three pil'd mountain stands,
Till thunder strikes him from the sky,
The son of Earth again in his earth's
womb does lie.

What blood, 'confusion, ruin, to obtain
A short and miserable reign?
In what oblique and humble creeping
wise

Does the mischievous serpent rise?
But ev'n his forked tongue strikes dead,
When he's rear'd up his wicked head;
He murders with his mortal frown;
A basilisk he grows if once he get* a
crown.

But no guards can oppose assaulting
ears,
Or undermining tears;
No more than doors or close-drawn
curtains keep
The swarming dreams out when we
sleep:

That bloody conscience, too, of his,
(For oh! a rebel red-coat 't is)
Does here his early hell begin;
He sees his slaves without, his tyrant feels
within.

Let, gracious God! let never more thine
hand
Lift up this rod against our land:
A tyrant is a rod and serpent too,
And brings worse plagues than Egypt
knew.
What rivers stain'd with blood have
been?

What storm and hail-shot have we seen?
What sores deform'd the ulcerous state?
What darkness to be felt has bury'd us of
late?

How has it snatch'd our flocks and herds
away!
And made even of our sons a prey!
What croaking sects and vermin has it
sent

The restless nation to torment!
What greedy troops, what armed power
Of flies and locusts, to devour
The land, which ev'rywhere they fill!
Nor fly they, Lord! away; no, they
devour it still.

Come the eleventh plague rather than
this should be,
Come sink us rather in the sea:
Come rather Pestilence, and reap us
down;
Come God's sword rather than our own:
Let rather Roman come again,
Or Saxon, Norman, or the Dane:
In all the bonds we ever bore
We griev'd, we sigh'd, we wept: we neve-
blush'd before.

If by our sins the divine vengeance be
Call'd to this last extremity,
Let some denouncing Jonas first be sent
To try if England can repent:
Methinks, at least some prodigy,
Some dreadful comet from on high,
Should terribly forewarn the earth,
As of good princes' deaths, so of a tyrant's
birth.

(ROBERT SOUTHWELL. 1560—1595.)

TIMES GO BY TURNS.

THE lopp'd tree in time may grow again,
Most naked plants renew both fruit and
flower,
The sorriest wight may find release of
pain,
The driest soil suck in some moistening
shower;
Time goes by turns, and chances change
by course,
From foul to fair, from better hap to
worse.

The sea of Fortune doth not ever flow;
She draws her favours to the lowest ebb;
Her tides have equal times to come and
go;
Her loom doth weave the fine and coarsest
web:

No joy so great but runneth to an end,
No hap so hard but may in time amend.

(CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE. 1564—1593.)

THE PASSIONATE SHEPHERD TO HIS LOVE.

COME live with me, and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove.

That valleys, groves, or hill, or field,
Or woods and steepy mountains yield ;

Where we will sit upon the rocks,
And see the shepherds feed their flocks,
By shallow rivers, to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses,
And then a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flowers, and a kirtle,
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle ;

A gown made of the finest wool,
Which from our pretty lambs we pull ;
Slippers, lined choicely for the cold,
With buckles of the purest gold ;

A belt of straw and ivy-buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs :
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my love.

Thy silver dishes, for thy meat,
As precious as the gods do eat,
Shall, on an ivory table, be
Prepared each day for thee and me.

The shepherd swains shall dance and
sing
For thy delight each May morning.
If these delights thy mind may move,
Come live with me and be my love.

ANSWER BY SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

If all the world and love were young,
And truth in every shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me move
To live with thee and be thy love,

But time drives flocks from field to fold,
When rivers rage and rocks grow cold,
Then Philomel becometh dumb,
And age complains of cares to come.

The flowers do fade, and wanton fields
To wayward winter reckoning yields ;
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.

Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy beds of roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies,
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten ;
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.

Thy belt of straw and ivy-buds,
Thy coral clasps and amber studs,
All these in me no means can move,
To come to thee and be thy love.

What should we talk of dainties, then,
Of better meat than's fit for men ?
These are but vain : that's only good
Which God hath bless'd and sent for food.

But could youth last, and love still breed,
Had joys no date, nor age no need ;
Then those delights my mind might move,
To live with thee and be thy love.

[EDMUND SPENSER. 1553-1599.]

THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS.

AND is there care in Heaven? And is
there love
In heavenly spirits to these creatures base,
That may compassion of their evils move ?
There is :—else much more wretched
were the case
Of men than beasts : but O ! th' exceed-
ing grace
Of highest God, that loves his creatures
so,
And all his works with mercy doth em-
brace,
That blessed angels he sends to and fro,
To serve to wicked man, to serve his
foe !

How oft do they their silver bowers leave
To come to succour us that succour want !
How oft do they with golden pinions cleave
The flitting skies, like flying pursuivant,
Against foul fiends to aid us militant !
They for us fight, they watch and duly
ward,
And their bright squadrons round about
us plant ;
And all for love and nothing for reward :
O, why should heavenly God to men have
such regard ?

UNA AND THE LION.

ONE day, nigh weary of the irksome way,
From her unhasty beast she did alight;
And on the grass her dainty limbs did lay
In secret shadow, far from all men's sight;
From her fair head her fillet she undight,
And laid her stole aside: her angel's face,
As the great eye of Heaven, shined bright,

And made a sunshine in the shady place;
Did never mortal eye behold such heavenly grace.

It fortunéd, out of the thickest wood
A ramping lion rushéd suddenly,
Hunting full greedy after salvage blood:
Soon as the royal virgin he did spy,
With gaping mouth at her ran greedily,
To have at once devoured her tender corse:

But to the prey when as he drew more nigh,
His bloody rage assuagéd with remorse,
And, with the sight amazed, forgot his furious force.

Instead thereof he kissed her weary feet,
And licked her lily hands with fawning tongue;

As he her wrongéd innocence did weat.
O how can beauty master the most strong,
And simple truth subdue avenging wrong!
Whose yielded pride and proud submission,
Still dreading death, when she had marked long,
Her heart 'gan melt in great compassion;
And drizzling tears did shed for pure affection.

"The lion, lord of every beast in field,"
Quoth she, "his princely puissance doth abate,
And mighty proud to humble weak does yield,

Forgetful of the hungry rage, which late
Him pricked, in pity of my sad estate:—
But he, my lion, and my noble lord,
How does he find in cruel heart to hate
Her, that him lov'd, and ever most adored
As the god of my life? why hath he me
abhorred?"

Redounding tears did choke th' end of her plaint,

Which softly echoed from the neighbour wood;

And, sad to see her sorrowful constraint,
The kingly beast upon her gazing stood;
With pity calmed, down fell his angry mood.

At last, in close heart shutting up her pain,

Arose the virgin born of heavenly brood,
And to her snowy palfrey got again,
To seek her strayed champion if she might attain.

The lion would not leave her desolate,
But with her went along, as a strong guard

Of her chaste person, and a faithful mate
Of her sad troubles and misfortunes hard:
Still, when she slept, he kept both watch and ward;

And, when she waked, he waited diligent,
With humble service to her will prepared:
From her fair eyes he took commandement,

And ever by her looks conceivéd her intent.

~~~~~  
SWEET IS THE ROSE.

SWEET is the rose, but grows upon a breere;

Sweet is the juniper, but sharp his bough;  
Sweet is the eglantine, but pricketh near;  
Sweet is the firbloom, but his branches rough;

Sweet is the cyprus, but his rind is tough;  
Sweet is the nut, but bitter is his pill;  
Sweet is the broom flower, but yet sour enough;

And sweet is moly, but his root is ill;  
So, every sweet, with sour is tempered still,

That maketh it be coveted the more:  
For easy things that may be got at will  
Most sorts of men do set but little store.

Why then should I account of little pain,  
That endless pleasure shall unto me gain?

## THE RED CROSS KNIGHT.

A GENTLE knight was pricking on the plain,  
Yclad in mighty arms and silver shield,  
Wherein old dints of deep wounds did remain,  
The cruel marks of many a bloody field;  
Yet arms till that time did he never wield;  
His angry steed did chide his foaming bit,  
As much disdain to the curb to yield:  
Full jolly knight he seem'd, and fair did sit,  
As one for knightly guists and fierce encounters fit.

And on his breast a bloody cross he bore,  
The dear remembrance of his dying Lord,  
For whose sweet sake that glorious badge he wore,

And dead, as living, ever him ador'd:  
Upon his shield the like was also scor'd,  
For sovereign hope, which in his help he had.

Right, faithful, true he was in deed and word:

But of his cheer did seem too solemn sad:  
Yet nothing did he dread, but ever was ydrad.

Upon a great adventure he was bond,  
That greatest Gloriana to him gave,  
(That greatest glorious Queen of Faery Lond)

To win him worship, and her grace to have,

Which of all earthly things he most did crave.

And ever, as he rode, his heart did yearn  
To prove his puissance in battle brave;  
Upon his foe, and his new force to learn;  
Upon his foe, a dragon horrible and stern.

~~~~~  
THE HERMITAGE.

A LITTLE lowly hermitage it was,
Down in a dale, hard by a forest's side,
Far from resort of people that did pass
In travel to and fro: a little wide
There was an holy chapel edifyde,
Wherein the hermit duly wont to say
His holy things each morn and eventide;
Thereby a crystal stream did gently play,
Which from a sacred fountain welled forth
alway.

THE SEASONS.

So forth issued the Seasons of the year;
First lusty Spring, all dight in leaves and flowers

That freshly budded, and new blossoms did bear,

In which a thousand birds had built their bowers,

That sweetly sung to call forth paramours;
And in his hand a javelin he did bear,

And on his head (as fit for warlike stours)

A gilt engraven morion he did wear,
That as some did him love, so others did him fear.

Then came the jolly Summer, being dight
In a thin silken cassock coloured green
That was unlined all, to be more light,
And on his head a garland well beseen
He wore, from which, as he had chafed been,

The sweat did drop, and in his hand he bore

A bow and shaft, as he in forest green
Had hunted late the libbard or the boar,
And now would bathe his limbs, with labour heated sore.

Then came the Autumn, all in yellow clad,

As though he joyed in his plenteous store,
Laden with fruits that made him laugh,
full glad

That he had banished Hunger, which to fore

Had by the belly oft him pinched sore;
Upon his head a wreath, that was enroled
With ears of corn of every sort, he bore,
And in his hand a sickle he did hold,
To reap the ripened fruits the which the earth had yold.

Lastly came Winter, clothed all in frize,
Chattering his teeth for cold that did him chill,

Whilst on his hoary beard his breath did freeze,

And the dull drops that from his purpled bill

As from a limbeck did adown distil;
In his right hand a tipped staff he held,

With which his feeble steps he stayed
still,
For he was faint with cold and weak with
eld
That scarce his loosed limbs he able was
to weld.

THE TRUE WOMAN.

THRICE happy she that is so well assur'd
Unto herself, and settled so in heart,
That neither will for better be allur'd,
Ne fears to worse with any chance to
start,
But like a steady ship doth strongly part
The raging waves, and keeps her course
aright;
Ne ought for tempest doth from it depart,
Ne ought for fairer weather's false delight.
Such self-assurance need not fear the
spight
Of grudging foes, ne favour seek of
friends;
But in the stay of her own stedfast might,
Neither to one herself or other bends.
Most happy she that most assur'd doth
rest,
But he most happy who such one loves
best.

LOVE IN ABSENCE.

LIKE as the culver on the bared bough
Sits mourning for the absence of her
mate,
And in her songs sends many a wishful
vow
For his return, that seems to linger late;
So I alone, now left disconsolate,
Mourn to myself the absence of my love,
And wandering here and there all deso-
late,
Seek with my plaints to match that
mournful dove.
Ne joy of ought that under heaven doth
hove
Can comfort me, but her own joyous
sight,
Whose sweet aspect both god and man
can move,
In her unspotted pleasaunce to delight:

Dark is my day whiles her fair light I
miss.
And dead my life, that wants such lively
bliss.

THE GARDEN OF BEAUTY.

COMING to kiss her lips (such grace I
found),
Me seem'd I smelt a garden of sweet
flow'rs,
That dainty odours from them threw
around,
For damsels fit to deck their lovers'
bow'rs.
Her lips did smell like unto gilliflowers,
Her ruddy cheeks like unto roses red,
Her snowy brows like budded bella-
moures,
Her lovely eyes like pinks but newly
spred,
Her goodly bosom like a strawberry
bed,
Her neck like to a bunch of cullambines,
Her breast like lilies ere their leaves be
shed,
Her nipples like young blossom'd jessa-
mines:
Such fragrant flow'rs do give most odo-
rous smell,
But her sweet odour did them all excel.

THE POWER OF POETRY TO CONFER FAME.

ONE day I wrote her name upon the
strand,
But came the waves and washed it away;
Again I wrote it with a second hand,
But came the tide, and made my pains
his prey.
Vain man! said she, that doth in vain
assay
A mortal thing so to immortalize,
For I myself shall like to this decay,
And eke my name be wiped out likewise.
Not so, quoth I, let baser things devise
To die in dust, but you shall live by
fame:
My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,

And in the heavens write your glorious
name,
Where, when as Death shall all the world
subdue,
Our love shall live, and later life renew.

~~~~~

ASTROPHEL (SIR PHILIP  
SIDNEY).

" Woods, hills, and rivers, now are de-  
solate,  
Sith he is gone, the which them all did  
grace ;  
And all the fields do wail their widow  
state,  
Sith death their fairest flower did late  
deface :  
The fairest flower in field that ever grew  
Was Astrophel ; that was we all may rue.

" What cruel hand of cursed foe un-  
known  
Hath cropt the stalk which bore so fair a  
flower ?  
Untimely cropt, before it well were  
grown,  
And clean defaced in untimely hour ;  
Great loss to all that ever him did see,  
Great loss to all, but greatest loss to me.

" Break now your girlonds, O ye shep-  
herds' lasses !  
Sith the fair flower which them adorn'd  
is gone ;  
The flower which them adorn'd is gone  
to ashes,  
Never again let lass put girlond on :  
Instead of girlond wear sad cypress now,  
And bitter elder broken from the bough.

" Ne ever sing the love-lays which he  
made ;  
Who ever made such lays of love as  
he ?  
Ne ever read the riddles which he said  
Unto yourselves to make you merry glee :  
Your merry glee is now laid all abed,  
Your merry maker now, alas ! is dead.

" Death, the devourer of all world's  
delight,

Hath robbed you, and reft fro me my  
joy ;  
Both you and me, and all the world, he  
quite  
Hath robb'd of joyance, and left sad  
annoy.  
Joy of the world, and shepherds' pride,  
was he ;  
Shepherds, hope never like again to see.

" O Death ! that hast us of such riches  
reft,  
Tell us, at least, what hast thou with it  
done ?  
What is become of him whose flower here  
left  
Is but the shadow of his likeness gone ?  
Scarce like the shadow of that which he  
was,  
Nought like, but that he like a shade did  
pass.

" But that immortal spirit, which was  
deck'd  
With all the dowries of celestial grace,  
By sovereign choice from th' heavenly  
quires select,  
And lineally deriv'd from angels' race,  
O what is now of it become ? aread :  
Aye me ! can so divine a thing be dead :

" Ah ! no : it is not dead, ne can it die,  
But lives for aye in blissful paradise,  
Where like a new-born babe it soft doth  
lie  
In bed of lilies, wrapt in tender wise,  
And compass'd all about with roses  
sweet,  
And dainty violets from head to feet.

" There thousand birds, all of celestial  
brood,  
To him do sweetly carol day and night,  
And with strange notes, of him well un-  
derstood,  
Lull him asleep in angel-like delight ;  
Whilst in sweet dream to him presented  
be  
Immortal beauties, which no eye may see.

" But he them sees, and takes exceeding  
pleasure  
Of their divine aspects, appearing plain,

And kindling love in him above all measure;  
 Sweet love, still joyous, never feeling pain:  
 For what so goodly form he there doth see  
 He may enjoy, from jealous rancour free.

"There liveth he in everlasting bliss,  
 Sweet Spirit! never fearing more to die,  
 Ne dreading harm from any foes of his,  
 Ne fearing savage beasts' more cruelty,  
 Whilst we here wretches wail his private lack,  
 And with vain vows do often call him back.

"But live thou there still, happy, happy Spirit!  
 And give us leave thee here thus to lament;  
 Not thee that dost thy heaven's joy inherit,  
 But our own selves, that here in dole are drent.  
 Thus do we weep and wail, and wear our eyes,  
 Mourning in others our own miseries."

#### THE BRIDAL DAY.

"Open the temple-gates unto my love,  
 Open them wide that she may enter in,  
 And all the posts adorn as doth behove,  
 And all the pillars deck with garlands trim,  
 For to receive this saint with honour due,  
 That cometh in to you.  
 With trembling steps and humble reverence  
 She cometh in before th' Almighty's view:  
 Of her, ye virgins! learn obedience,  
 When so ye come into these holy places,  
 To humble your proud faces.  
 Bring her up to th' high altar, that she may  
 The sacred ceremonies there partake,  
 The which do endless matrimony make;  
 And let the roaring organs loudly play  
 The praises of the Lord, in lively notes,  
 The whiles with hollow throats

The choristers the joyous anthems sing,  
 That all the woods may answer, and their echo ring.

"Behold whiles she before the altar stands,  
 Hearing the holy priest that to her speaks,  
 And blesses her with his two happy hands,  
 How red the roses flush up in her cheeks!  
 And the pure snow, with goodly vermil stain,  
 Like crimson dy'd in grain,  
 That even the angels, which continually  
 About the sacred altar do remain,  
 Forget their service, and about her fly,  
 Oft peeping in her face, that seems more fair

The more they on it stare;  
 But her sad eyes, still fast'ned on the ground,  
 Are governed with goodly modesty,  
 That suffers not one look to glance awry,  
 Which may let in a little thought unsound.

Why blush ye, Love! to give to me your hand,  
 The pledge of all your band?  
 Sing, ye sweet angels! Alleluia sing,  
 That all the woods may answer, and your echo ring.

"Now all is done: bring home the bride again,  
 Bring home the triumph of our victory:  
 Bring home with you the glory of her gain,

With joyance bring her, and with jollity.  
 Never had man more joyful day than this,  
 Whom Heaven would heap with bliss.  
 Make feast, therefore, now all this live-long day,

This day for ever to me holy is;  
 Pour out the wine without restraint or stay,

Pour not by cups, but by the belly-full:  
 Pour out to all that wull,  
 And sprinkle all the posts and walls with wine,

That they may sweat, and drunken be withal:

Crown ye god Bacchus with a coronal,  
 And Hymen also crown with wreaths of vine,  
 And let the Graces dance unto the rest,

For they can do it best,  
 The whiles the maidens do their carol  
 sing,  
 To which the woods shall answer, and  
 their echo ring.

'Ring ye the bells, ye young men of the  
 town,  
 And leave your wonted labours for this  
 day ;  
 This day is holy ; do you write it down,  
 That ye for ever it remember may.

\* \* \*  
 "Now cease, ye damsels ! your delights  
 forepast,

Enough it is that all the day was yours ;  
 Now day is done, and night is nighing fast,  
 Now bring the bride into the bridal  
 bowers ;

Now night is come, now soon her disarray,  
 And in her bed her lay ;  
 Lay her in lilies and in violets,  
 And silken curtains over her display,  
 And odour'd sheets, and arras coverlets.  
 Behold how goodly my fair love does lie,  
 In proud humility ;

Like unto Maia, when as Jove her took  
 In Tempe, lying on the flow'ry grass,  
 'Twixt sleep and wake, after she weary was  
 With bathing in the Acidalian brook :

Now it is night, ye damsels may be gone,  
 And leave my love alone,  
 And leave likewise your former lays to  
 sing ;

The woods no more shall answer, nor  
 your echo ring.

~~~~~  
 [SIR PHILIP SIDNEY. 1554—1586.]

TO THE MOON.

WITH how sad steps, O Moon, thou
 climb'st the skies !

How silently, and with how wan a face !
 What !—may it be, that ev'n in heavenly
 place

That busy archer his sharp arrows tries ?
 Sure, if that long-with-love-acquainted
 eyes

Can judge of love, thou feel'st a lover's
 case ;

I read it in thy looks ; thy languished
 grace,

To me, that feel the like, thy state
 describes.

Then, ev'n of fellowship, O Moon, tell
 me,

Is constant love deemed there but want
 of wit ?

Are beauties there as proud as here they
 be ?

Do they above love to be loved, and yet
 Those lovers scorn, whom that love doth
 possess ?

Do they call virtue there—ungratefulness ;

~~~~~  
 [ANONYMOUS. 1570.]

### LOVE ME LITTLE—LOVE ME LONG.

LOVE me little, love me long,

Is the burden of my song.

Love that is too hot and strong

Burneth soon to waste.

Still I would not have thee cold,

Not too backward nor too bold ;

Love that lasteth till 'tis old

Fadeth not in haste.

If thou lovest me too much,

It will not prove as true as touch ;

Love me little, more than such,

For I fear the end.

I am with little well content,

And a little from thee sent

Is enough, with true intent,

To be steadfast friend.

Say thou lov'st me while thou live,

I to thee my love will give,

Never dreaming to deceive

While that life endures :

Nay, and after death, in sooth,

I to thee will keep my truth,

As now, when in my May of youth,

This my love assures.

Constant love is moderate ever,

And it will through life persevere ;

Give me that, with true endeavour

I will it restore.

A suit of durance let it be,

For all weathers ; that for me.

For the land or for the sea,  
Lasting evermore.

Winter's cold or summer's heat,  
Autumn's tempests on it beat,  
It can never know defeat,  
Never can rebel.

Such the love that I would gain,  
Such the love, I tell thee plain,  
Thou must give, or woo in vain;  
So to thee farewell.

[THOMAS LODGE. 1556—1625.]

### ROSALIND'S COMPLAINT.

LOVE in my bosom, like a bee,  
Doth suck his sweet;  
Now with his wings he plays with me,  
Now with his feet.

Within mine eyes he makes his nest,  
His bed amidst my tender breast;  
My kisses are his daily feast,  
And yet he robs me of my rest:  
Ah, wanton, will you?

And if I sleep, then pierceth he  
With pretty slight,  
And makes his pillow of my knee  
The livelong night.  
Strike I the lute, he tunes the string;  
He music plays if I but sing;  
He lends my every lovely thing,  
Yet, cruel, he my heart doth sting:  
Ah, wanton, will you?

Else I with roses every day  
Will whip you hence,  
And bind you when you long to play,  
For your offence.  
I'll shut my eyes to keep you in,  
I'll make you fast it for your sin,  
I'll count your power not worth a pin:  
Alas! what hereby shall I win,  
If he gainsay me?

What if I beat the wanton boy  
With many a rod?  
He will repay me with annoy,  
Because a god.  
Then sit thou softly on my knee,  
And let thy bower my bosom be;

Lurk in my eyes, like of thee,  
O Cupid! so thou pity me;  
Spare not, but play thee.

[JAMES SHIRLEY. 1596—1666.]

### DEATH'S FINAL CONQUEST.

THE glories of our birth and state,  
Are shadows, not substantial things;  
There is no armour against fate:  
Death lays his icy hand on kings  
Sceptre and crown  
Must tumble down,  
And in the dust be equal made  
With the poor' crooked scythe and  
spade.

Some men with swords may reap the  
field,  
And plant with laurels where they kill;  
But their strong nerves at last must  
yield,  
They tame but one another still;  
Early or late,  
'They stoop to fate,  
And must give up their murmuring  
breath,  
When they, pale captives! creep to  
death.

The garlands wither on your brow;  
Then boast no more your mighty deeds;  
Upon death's purple altar, now,  
See where the victor victim bleeds!  
All heads must come  
To the cold tomb,  
Only the actions of the just  
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust.

### VICTORIOUS MEN OF EARTH.

VICTORIOUS men of earth, no more  
Proclaim how wide your empires are;  
Though you bind in every shore,  
And your triumphs reach as far  
As night or day;  
Yet you proud monarchs must obey,  
And mingle with forgotten ashes, when  
Death calls ye to the croud of common  
men.

Devouring famine, plague, and war,  
 Each able to undo mankind,  
 Death's servile emissaries are :  
 Nor to these alone confin'd ;  
     He hath at will  
 More quaint and subtle ways to kill ;  
 A smile or kiss, as he will use the art,  
 Shall have the cunning skill to break a  
     heart.

[THOMAS DEKKER. 1599.]

### SWEET CONTENT.

ART thou poor, yet hast thou golden  
 slumbers ?  
     Oh, sweet content !  
 Art thou rich, yet is thy mind perplexed ?  
     Oh, punishment !  
 Dost thou laugh to see how fools are  
 vexed  
 To add to golden numbers, golden  
 numbers ?  
     O, sweet content !

Work apace, apace, apace, apace ;  
 Honest labour bears a lovely face ;  
 Then hey noney, noney, hey noney, noney.

Canst drink the waters of the crisped  
 spring ?

    O, sweet content !  
 Swimmest thou in wealth, yet sink'st in  
 thine own tears ?  
     O, punishment !  
 Then he that patiently want's burden  
 bears,  
 No burden bears, but is a king, a king !  
     O, sweet content !

    Work apace, apace, &c.

[SAMUEL FLETCHER. 1576—1625.]

### MELANCHOLY.

HENCE all you vain delights.  
 As short as are the nights  
     Wherein you spend your folly !  
 There's nought in this life sweet,  
 If man were wise to see't,  
 But only melancholy !

Welcome folded arms, and fixed eyes,  
 A sigh that piercing mortifies,  
 A look that's fasten'd to the ground,  
 A tongue chain'd up, without a sound !

Fountain heads and pathless groves,  
 Places which pale Passion loves !  
 Moonlight walks, when all the fowls  
 Are warmly housed, save bats and owls !  
     A midnight bell, a parting groan !—  
 These are the sounds we feed upon ;  
 Then stretch our bones in a still, gloomy  
 valley ;  
 Nothing's so dainty sweet as lovely mel-  
     ancholy !

### CONSTANCY.

LAY a garland on my hearse  
 Of the dismal yew ;  
 Maidens, willow branches bear ;  
     Say, I died true.

My love was false, but I was firm  
 From my hour of birth.  
 Upon my buried body lie  
     Lightly, gentle earth !

### WEEP NO MORE.

WEEP no more, nor sigh, nor groan,  
 Sorrow calls no time that's gone :  
 Violets plucked, the sweetest rain  
 Makes not fresh nor grow again ;  
 Trim thy locks, look cheerfully ;  
 Fate's hidden ends eyes cannot see :  
 Joys as winged dreams fly fast,  
 Why should sadness longer last ?  
 Grief is but a wound to woe ;  
 Gentlest fair one, mourn no more.

[ROBERT GREENE. 1560—1592.]

### A DEATH-BED LAMENT.

DECEIVING world, that with alluring toys  
 Hast made my life, the subject of thy  
     scorn,  
 And scornest now to lend thy fading joys,  
 T' out-length my life, whom friends have  
     left forlorn ;



How well are they that die ere they be  
born,  
And never see thy slights, which few men  
shun,  
Till unawares they helpless are undone !

O that a year were granted me to live,  
And for that year my former wits restored !  
What rules of life, what counsel I would  
give,

How should my sin with sorrow be  
deplored !

But I must die of every man abhorred :  
Time loosely spent will not again be won ;  
My time is loosely spent, and I undone.

[JOHN LYLY. 1554—1600.]

### CUPID AND CAMPASPE.

CUPID and my Campaspe playd  
At cards for kisses ; Cupid paid :  
He stakes his quiver, bow and arrows,  
His mother's doves, and team of spar-  
rows ;

Loses them too ; then down he throws  
The coral of his lip, the rose  
Growing on's cheek (but none knows  
how),

With these, the crystal of his brow,  
And then the dimple of his chin ;  
All these did my Campaspe win.

At last he set her both his eyes,  
She won, and Cupid blind did rise.

O Love ! has she done this to thee ?  
What shall, alas ! become of me ?

[WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE. 1564—1616.]

### ADVICE OF POLONIUS TO HIS SON, ON SETTING FORTH ON HIS TRAVELS.

*Hamlet.*

GIVE thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act,  
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.  
The friends thou hast, and their adoption  
tried,

Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of  
steel ;

But do not dull thy palm with entertain-  
ment

Of each new-hatch'd, unfledg'd comrade.  
Beware

Of entrance to a quarrel ; but, being in,  
Bear it, that the opposer may beware of  
thee.

Give every man thine ear, but few thy  
voice :

Take each man's censure, but reserve thy  
judgment.

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,  
But not express'd in fancy ; rich not  
gaudy ;

For the apparel oft proclaims the man ;  
And they in France, of the best rank and  
station,

Are most select and generous, chief in  
that.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be :

For loan oft loses both itself and friend ;  
And borrowing dulls the edge of hus-  
bandry.

This above all—to thine own self be true ;  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou can'st not then be false to any man.  
Farewell ; my blessing season this in thee.

### HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY ON LIFE AND DEATH.

To be, or not to be,—that is the ques-  
tion ;—

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous for-  
tune ;

Or to take arms against a sea of  
troubles,

And, by opposing, end them ?—To die,—  
to sleep,—

No more ;—and, by a sleep, to say we  
end

The heart-ache, and the thousand natural  
shocks

That flesh is heir to,—'tis a consumma-  
tion

Devoutly to be wish'd. To die ;—to  
sleep ;—

To sleep ! perchance to dream ;—ay,  
there's the rub :

For in that sleep of death what dreams  
 may come,  
 When we have shuffled off this mortal  
 coil,  
 Must give us pause ; there's the respect  
 That makes calamity of so long life :  
 For who would bear the whips and scorns  
 of time,  
 The oppressor's wrong, the proud man's  
 contumely,  
 The pangs of despis'd love, the law's  
 delay,  
 The insolence of office, and the spurns  
 That patient merit of the unworthy  
 takes,  
 When he himself might his quietus make  
 With a bare bodkin? who would fardels  
 bear,  
 To grunt and sweat under a weary  
 life ;  
 But that the dread of something after  
 death,—  
 The undiscovered country, from whose  
 bourne  
 No traveller returns,—puzzles the will ;  
 And makes us rather bear those ills we  
 have,  
 Than fly to others that we know not  
 of?  
 Thus conscience does make cowards of us  
 all ;  
 And thus the native hue of resolution  
 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of  
 thought ;  
 And enterprises of great pith and moment,  
 With this regard, their currents turn  
 a-wry,  
 And lose the name of action.

~~~~~  
 HAMLET'S REPROACHES TO
 HIS MOTHER.

Look here, upon this picture, and on
 this ;
 The counterfeit presentment of two
 brothers.
 See, what a grace was seated on this
 brow :
 Hyperion's curls ; the front of Jove him-
 self ;
 An eye like Mars, to threaten and com-
 mand ;

A station like the herald Mercury,
 New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill ;
 A combination, and a form, indeed,
 Where every god did seem to set his
 seal,
 To give the world assurance of a man :
 This was your husband.—Look you now,
 what follows ;
 Here is your husband ; like a mildew'd
 ear,
 Blasting his wholesome brother. Have
 you eyes ?
 Could you on this fair mountain leave to
 feed,
 And batten on this moor? Ha! have
 you eyes ?
 You cannot call it love: for, at your
 age,
 The hey-day in the blood is tame, 'tis
 humble,
 And waits upon the judgment: and what
 judgment
 Would step from this to this? Sense,
 sure you have,
 Else could you not have motion: but,
 sure that sense
 Is apoplex'd: for madness would not
 err;
 Nor sense to ecstasy was ne'er so thrall'd,
 But it reserved some quantity of choice,
 To serve in such a difference. What
 devil was't
 That thus hath cozen'd you at hoodman-
 blind ?
 Eyes without feeling, feeling without
 sight,
 Ears without hands or eyes, smelling sans
 all,
 Or but a sickly part of one true sense
 Could not so mope.
 O shame! where is thy blush? Rebel-
 lious hell,
 If thou canst mutine in a matron's bones,
 To flaming youth let virtue be as wax,
 And melt in her own fire: proclaim no
 shame,
 When the compulsive ardour gives the
 charge ;
 Since frost itself as actively doth burn,
 And reason panders will.
Queen. O Hamlet, speak no more :
 Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very
 soul.

HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY ON HIS MOTHER'S MARRIAGE.

O THAT this too too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew !
Or that the everlasting had not fixed
His canon 'gainst self-slaughter ! O God !
O God !

How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable
Seem to me all the uses of this world !
Fie on't ! O fie ! 'tis an unweeded garden,
That grows to seed ; things rank and
gross in nature

Possess it merely. That it should come
to this !

But two months dead !—nay, not so
much, not two :

So excellent a king ; that was, to this,
Hyperion to a satyr : so loving to my
mother,

That he might not betwixt the winds of
heaven

Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and
earth !

Must I remember ? why, she would hang
on him,

As if increase of appetite had grown
By what it fed on : and yet, within a
month,—

Let me not think on't ;—Frailty, thy
name is woman !—

A little month ; or ere those shoes were old,
With which she follow'd my poor father's
body,

Like Niobe, all tears ;—why she, even
she,— [of reason,

O heaven ! a beast, that wants discourse
Would have mourn'd longer,—married
with my uncle,

My father's brother ; but no more like my
father,

Than I to Hercules : Within a month ;
Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears
Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,
She married.

HAMLET'S ADDRESS TO HIS FATHER'S GHOST.

ANGELS and ministers of grace defend
us !—

Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,

Bring with thee airs from heaven, or
blasts from hell,

Be thy intents wicked or charitable, "
Thou com'st in such a questionable shape,
That I will speak to thee ; I'll call thee,
Hamlet,

King, father, royal Dane : O, answer me :
Let me not burst in ignorance ! but tell
Why thy canoniz'd bones, hearsed in
death,

Have burst their cerements ! why the
sepulchre,

Wherein we saw thee quietly in-urn'd,
Hath oped his ponderous and marble
jaws,

To cast thee up again ! What may this
mean,

That thou, dead corse, again, in complete
steel,

Revisit'st thus the glimpses of the moon,
Making night hideous ; and we fools of
nature,

So horribly to shake our disposition,
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our
souls ?

HAMLET'S ESTEEM FOR HORATIO.

NAY, do not think I flatter :
For what advancement may I hope from
thee,

That no revenue hast but thy good spirits
To feed and clothe thee ? Why should
the poor be flatter'd ?

No, let the candied tongue lick absurd
pomp ;

And crook the pregnant hinges of the
knee,

Where thrift may follow fawning. Dost
thou hear ?

Since my dear soul was mistress of her
choice,

And could of men distinguish her election
She hath seal'd thee for herself ; for thou
hast been

As one, in suffering all, that suffers no-
thing ;

A man that fortune's buffets and rewards
Hath ta'en with equal thanks : and bless'd
are those

Whose blood and judgment are so well
co-mingled,

That they are not a pipe for Fortune's
finger
To sound what stop she please : Give me
that man
That is not passion's slave, and I will
wear him
In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of
hearts,
As I do thee.

SECRET LOVE.

Twelfth Night.

SHE never told her love,
But let concealment, like a worm i' the bud,
Feed on her damask cheek : she pined in
thought ;
And, with a green and yellow melancholy,
She sat like Patience on a monument,
Smiling at grief.

SONG.

COME away, come away, death,
And in sad cypress let me be laid ;
Fly away, fly away, breath ;
I am slain by a fair cruel maid.
My shroud of white, stuck all with yew,
O, prepare it ;
My part of death no one so true
Did share it.

Not a flower, not a flower sweet,
On my black coffin let there be strown ;
Not a friend, not a friend greet
My poor corpse, where my bones shall be
thrown.
A thousand thousand sighs to save,
Lay me, O, where
Sad true lover ne'er find my grave
To weep there.

A FAITHFUL LOVER.

Two Gentlemen of Verona.

HIS words are bonds, his oaths are
oracles ;
His love sincere, his thoughts immaculate ;
His tears pure messengers sent from his
heart,
His heart as far from fraud as heaven
from earth.

CONSCIENCE.

Tempest.

O, IT is monstrous ! monstrous !
Methought the billows spoke and told me
of it ;
The winds did sing it to me ; and the
thunder,
That deep and dreadful organ pipe, pro-
nounced
The name.

MUSIC.

IF music be the food of love, play on,
Give me excess of it ; that, surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken and so die, —
That strain again ; it had a dying fall :
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet south
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing, and giving odour.

HUMAN NATURE.

THESE our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air :
And, like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous
palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe it-
self ;
Yea, all which it inherit shall dissolve ;
And, like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such
stuff
As dreams are made on, and our little
life
Is rounded with a sleep.

CASSIUS UPON CÆSAR.

Julius Caesar.

WHY, man, he doth bestride the narrow
world
Like a colossus ; and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep
about
To find ourselves dishonourable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their
fates :

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,

But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

Brutus and Cæsar: What should be in that Cæsar?

Why should that name be sounded more than yours?

Write them together, yours is as fair a name;

Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;

Weigh them, it is as heavy; conjure with 'em,

Brutus will start a spirit as soon as Cæsar.

Now, in the names of all the gods at once,

Upon what meat doth this our Cæsar feed,

That he is grown so great? Age, thou art sham'd!

Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!

When went there by an age since the great flood,

But it was fam'd with more than with one man?

When could they say, till now, that talk'd of Rome,

That her wide walks encompass'd but one man?

MARK ANTONY'S ORATION OVER THE BODY OF CÆSAR.

FRIENDS, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears:

I come to bury Cæsar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Cæsar! The noble Brutus

Hath told you Cæsar was ambitious:

If it were so, it were a grievous fault;

And grievously hath Cæsar answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest

(For Brutus is an honourable man,

So are they all, all honourable men),

Come I to speak in Cæsar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me;

But Brutus says he was ambitious?

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome,

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill;

Did this in Cæsar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Cæsar hath wept;

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff;

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see, that on the Lupercal,

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke.

But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause;

What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?

O judgment, thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason!—Bear with me,

My heart is in the coffin there with Cæsar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

But yesterday the word of Cæsar might have stood against the world; now lies he there,

And none so poor to do him reverence.

O masters! if I were disposed to stir

Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,

I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,

Who, you all know, are honourable men:

I will not do them wrong; I rather choose

To wrong the dead, to wrong myself, and you,

Than I will wrong such honourable men.

But here's a parchment with the seal of Cæsar,

I found it in his closet,—'tis his will;

Let but the commons hear this testament (Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read),

And they would go and kiss dead Cæsar's wounds,

And dip their napkins in his sacred blood ;
 Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
 And, dying, mention it within their wills,
 Bequeathing it, as a rich legacy,
 Unto their issue.

* * * * *

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

You all do know this mantle ; I remember
 The first time ever Cæsar put it on ;
 'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent ;
 That day he overcame the Nervii.

Look ! in this place ran Cassius' dagger through ;

See, what a rent the envious Casca made ;
 Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd ;

And, as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,
 Mark how the blood of Cæsar followed it !

As rushing out of doors, to be resolv'd
 If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no.
 For Brutus, as you know, was Cæsar's angel :

Judge, O you gods ! how dearly Cæsar lov'd him !

This was the most unkindest cut of all ;
 For, when the noble Cæsar saw him stab,
 Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,

Quite vanquish'd him : then burst his mighty heart ;

And, in his mantle muffling up his face,
 Even at the base of Pompey's statue,
 Which all the while ran blood, great Cæsar fell.

O, what a fall was there, my countrymen !
 Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
 Whilst bloody treason flourish'd over us,
 O, now you weep ; and, I perceive, you feel

The dint of pity ; these are gracious drops.
 Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold

Our Cæsar's vesture wounded ? look you here,

Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.

* * * * *

Good Friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up

To such a sudden flood of mutiny.

They, that have done this deed, are honourable ;

What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,

That made them do it ; they are wise and honourable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts ;

I am no orator, as Brutus is ;

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,

That love my friend ; and that they know full well

That give me public leave to speak of him.

For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,

Action nor utterance, nor the power of speech,

To stir men's blood ; I only speak right on ;

I tell you that which you yourselves do know ;

Show you sweet Cæsar's wounds, poor, poor dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me. But were I Brutus,

And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony

Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue

In every wound of Cæsar, that should move

The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

THE QUARREL OF BRUTUS AND CASSIUS.

Cas. Come, Antony, and young Octavius, come,

Revenge yourselves alone on Cassius,

For Cassius is a-weary of the world ;

Hated by one he loves ; braved by his brother ;

Checked like a bondman ; all his faults observed,

Set in a note-book, learn'd, and conn'd by rote,

To cast into my teeth. O, I could weep

My spirit from mine eyes !—There is my dagger,
And here my naked breast ; within, a heart
Dearer than Plutus' mine, richer than gold ;
If that thou be'st a Roman, take it forth ;
I, that denied thee gold, will give my heart :

Strike, as thou didst at Cæsar ; for, I know,
When thou didst hate him worst, thou lovedst him better
Than ever thou lovedst Cassius.

Bru. Sheath your dagger.
Be angry when you will, it shall have scope ;
Do what you will, dishonour shall be humour.

O Cassius, you are yokéd with a lamb,
That carries anger, as the flint bears fire ;
Who, much enforcéd, shows a hasty spark,
And straight is cold again.

Cas. Hath Cassius lived
To be but mirth and laughter to his Brutus,
When grief, and blood ill-tempered, vexeth him ?

Bru. When I spoke that, I was ill-tempered too.

Cas. Do you confess so much ? give me your hand.

Bru. And my heart too.

Cas. O Brutus !

Bru. What's the matter ?

Cas. Have you not love enough to bear with me,

When that rash humour, which my mother gave me,
Makes me forgetful ?

Bru. Yes, Cassius ; and, henceforth,
When you are over-earnest with your Brutus,
He'll think your mother chides, and leave you so.

ANTONY'S DESCRIPTION OF BRUTUS.

This was the noblest Roman of them all ;
All the conspirators, save only he,
Did that they did in envy of great Cæsar ;

He, only, in a general honest thought,
And common good to all, made one of them.

His life was gentle ; and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, " This was a man ! "

MACBETH'S MENTAL STRUGGLE BEFORE THE MURDER OF DUNCAN.

Macbeth.

Macb. If it were done when 'tis done,
then 't were well

It were done quickly ; if the assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch

With his surcease, success ; that but this blow

Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,—

We'd jump the life to come. But, in these cases,

We still have judgment here ; that we but teach

Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return

To plague the inventor : this even-handed justice

Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice

To our own lips. He's here in double trust ;

First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,

Strong both against the deed ; then, as his host,

Who should against his murderer shut the door,

Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan

Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been

So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead, like angels, trumpet-tongued,

against
The deep damnation of his taking-off ;

And pity, like a naked new-born babe

Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim
horsed.

Upon the sightless couriers of the air,
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,
That tears shall drown the wind.—I have
no spur

To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps it-
self,

And falls on the other side.—How now?
what news?

Lady. He has almost supp'd; why
have you left the chamber?

Macb. Hath he asked for me?

Lady. Know you not he has?

Macb. We will proceed no further in
this business:

He hath honour'd me of late; and I have
bought

Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in the newest
gloss,

Not cast aside so soon.

Lady. Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it
slept since?

And wakes it now, to look so green and
pale

At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou
afear'd

To be the same in thine own act and
valour

As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou
have that

Which thou esteem'st the ornament of
life,

And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting I dare not wait upon I would,
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

Macb. Prythee, peace:

I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

LIFE.

TO-MORROW, and to-morrow, and to-
morrow,

Creeps in this petty pace from day to
day,

To the last syllable of recorded time;
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief
candle!

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor
player,

That struts and frets his hour upon the
stage,

And then is heard no more; it is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.

THE REPOSE OF THE GRAVE.

DUNCAN is in his grave;

After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;

Treason has done his worst; nor steel,
nor poison,

Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further.

THE VISIONARY DAGGER.

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come,
let me clutch thee.

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible

To feeling as to sight? or art thou but

A dagger of the mind; a false creation,

Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw.

Thou marshall'st me the way that I was
going;

And such an instrument I was to use.

Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other
senses,

Or else worth all the rest; I see thee still,

And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of
blood,

Which was not so before.—There's no
such thing:

It is the bloody business, which informs
Thus to mine eyes.

REMORSE.

WHENCE is that knocking?

How is 't with me, when every noise
appalls me?

What hands are here? Ha! they pluck
out mine eyes!
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this
blood
Clean from my hand? No; this my hand
will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green one red.

~~~~~  
DISEASES OF THE MIND  
INCURABLE.

CANST thou not minister to a mind  
diseas'd;  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;  
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,  
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous  
stuff  
Which weighs upon the heart?

~~~~~  
MACBETH TO BANQUO'S GHOST.

WHAT man dare, I dare.
Approach thou like the rugged Russian
bear,
The arm'd Rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan
tiger;
Take any shape but that, and my firm
nerves
Shall never tremble: or, be alive again,
And dare me to the desert with thy
sword;
If trembling I inhibit thee, protest me
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible
shadow!
Unreal mockery, hence! Why so--being
gone,
I am a man again.

[*Ghost disappears.*]

~~~~~  
DESPISED OLD AGE.

I HAVE liv'd long enough: my way of  
life  
Is fallen into the sear, the yellow leaf;  
And that which should accompany old  
age,  
As honour, love, obedience, troops of  
friends

I must not look to have; but in their  
stead,  
Curses, not loud, but deep, mouth-honour,  
breath,  
Which the poor heart would fain deny,  
but dare not.

~~~~~  
CORDELIA'S EMOTION ON
HEARING OF HER SISTERS'
CRUELTY.

King Lear.

PATIENCE and sorrow strove
Who should express her goodliest. You
have seen
Sunshine and rain at once: her smiles and
tears
Were like a better day: Those happy
smiles,
That play'd on her ripe lip, seem'd not to
know
What guests were in her eyes; which
parted thence,
As pearls from diamonds dropp'd.

~~~~~  
DOVER CLIFF.

How fearful  
And dizzy 't is to cast one's eyes so low!  
The crows, and choughs, that wing the  
midway air,  
Show scarce so gross as beetles: half  
way down  
Hangs one that gathers samphire; dread-  
ful trade!  
Methinks he seems no bigger than his  
head:  
The fishermen, that walk upon the beach,  
Appear like mice; and yon tall anchoring  
bark,  
Diminished to her cock; her cock, a  
buoy  
Almost too small for sight: the murmur-  
ing surge  
That on the unnumber'd idle pebbles  
chafes,  
Cannot be heard so high:—I'll look no  
more;  
Lest my brain turn, and the deficient  
sight  
Topple down headlong.

## KING LEAR IN THE TEMPEST.

Blow, wind, and crack your cheeks!  
 rage! blow!  
 You cataracts and huricanoes spout  
 Till you have drench'd our steeples,  
 drowned the cocks!  
 You sulphurous and thought-executing  
 fires,  
 Vaunt courtiers to oak-cleaving thunder-  
 bolts,  
 Singe my white head! And thou, all-  
 shaking thunder,  
 Strike flat the thick rotundity o' the  
 world!

\* \* \* \* \*  
 Rumble thy bellyful! Spit, fire! spout,  
 rain!  
 Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my  
 daughters:  
 I tax you not, you elements with unkind-  
 ness,  
 I never gave you kingdom, call'd you  
 children,  
 You owe me no subscription; why then,  
 let fall  
 Your horrible pleasure; here I stand, your  
 slave,  
 A poor, infirm, weak, and despis'd old  
 man:—  
 But yet I call you servile ministers,  
 That have with two pernicious daughters  
 join'd  
 Your high-engender'd battles 'gainst a  
 head  
 So old and white as this. O! O! 't is  
 foul!

LEAR TO CORDELIA WHEN  
TAKEN PRISONERS.

COME, let's away to prison:  
 We two alone will sing like birds i' the  
 cage:  
 When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel  
 down,  
 And ask of thee forgiveness: so we'll  
 live,  
 And pray, and sing, and tell old tales,  
 and laugh

At gilded butterflies and hear poor rogues  
 Talk of court news; and we'll talk with  
 them too,—  
 Who loses, and who wins: who's in,  
 who's out;  
 And take upon us the mystery of things,  
 As if we were God's spies: and we'll  
 wear out,  
 In a wall'd prison, packs and sects of  
 great ones,  
 That ebb and flow by the moon.

EDGAR'S DEFIANCE OF  
EDMUND.

DRAW thy sword;  
 That if my speech offend a noble heart,  
 Thy arm may do thee justice: here is  
 mine.  
 Behold, it is the privilege of mine honours,  
 My oath, and my profession: I protest,—  
 Maugre thy strength, youth, place, and  
 eminence,  
 Despite thy victor sword, and fire-new  
 fortune,  
 Thy valour, and thy heart,—thou art a  
 traitor:  
 False to thy gods, thy brother, and thy  
 father;  
 Conspirant 'gainst this high illustrious  
 prince;  
 And from the extremest upward of thy  
 head,  
 To the descent and dust beneath thy feet,  
 A most toad-spotted traitor. Say thou,  
 No,  
 This sword, this arm, and my best spirits,  
 are bent  
 To prove upon thy heart, whereto I  
 speak,  
 Thou liest.

## THE STORM.

POOR naked wretches, wheresoe'er you  
 are,  
 That bide the pelting of this pitiless  
 storm,  
 How shall your houseless heads, and un-  
 fed sides,  
 Your looped and windowed raggedness,  
 defend you

From seasons such as these? O! I have  
ta'en  
Too little care of this. Take physic,  
pomp;  
Expose thyself to, feel what wretches  
feel;  
That thou mayest shake the superflux to  
them,  
And show the heavens more just.

### CHARACTER OF CORIOLANUS.

*Coriolanus.*

His nature is too noble for the world:  
He would not flatter Neptune for his  
trident,  
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His  
heart's his mouth;  
What his breast forges, that his tongue  
must vent;  
And being angry, does forget that ever  
He heard the name of death.

### CORIOLANUS'S CONTEMPT FOR THE MOB.

You common cry of curs! whose breath  
I hate  
As reek o' the rotten fens, whose loves I  
prize  
As the dead carcasses of unburied men  
That do corrupt my air, I banish you;  
And here remain with your uncertainty!  
Let every feeble rumour shake your  
hearts!  
Your enemies, with nodding of their  
plumes,  
Fan you into despair! Have the power  
still  
To banish your defenders; till, at length,  
Your ignorance (which finds not till it  
feels),  
Making not reservation of yourselves  
(Still your own foes), deliver you, as  
most  
Abated captives, to some nation  
That won you without blows. Despising  
For you, the city, thus I turn my back:  
There is a world elsewhere.

WHAT would you have, you curs,  
That like nor peace nor war? the one  
affrights you,  
The other makes you proud. He that  
trusts you,  
Where he should find you lions, finds  
you hares;  
Where foxes, geese; you are no surer,  
no,  
Than is the coal of fire upon the ice,  
Or hailstone in the sun. Your virtue is  
To make him worthy whose offence sub-  
dues him,  
And curse that justice did it. Who  
deserves greatness,  
Deserves your hate: and your affections  
are  
A sick man's appetite, who desires most  
that  
Which would increase his evil. He that  
depends  
Upon your favours swims with fins of  
lead,  
And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang  
ye! Trust ye?  
With every minute you do change a  
mind;  
And call him noble that was now your  
hate.  
Him vile, that was your garland.

### CLEOPATRA ON THE CYDNUS.

*Antony and Cleopatra.*

THE barge she sat in, like a burnish'd  
throne,  
Burn'd on the water: the poop was beaten  
gold;  
Purple the sails, and so perfumed, that  
The winds were love-sick with them: the  
oars were silver;  
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke,  
and made  
The water which they beat to follow  
faster,  
As amorous of their strokes. For her  
own person,  
It beggar'd all description; she did lie  
In her pavilion (cloth of gold, of tissue),  
O'er picturing that Venus, where we see,

The fancy outwork nature : on each side  
her,  
Stood pretty dimpled boys, like smiling  
Cupids,  
With divers-colour'd fans, whose wind  
did seem  
To glow the delicate cheeks which they  
did cool,  
And what they undid, did.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Her gentlewomen, like the Nereides,  
So many mermaids, tended her i' the eyes,  
And made their bends adornings ; at the  
helm

A seeming mermaid steers : the silken  
tackle

Swell with the touches of those flower-  
soft hands,

That yarely frame the office. From the  
barge

A strange invisible perfume hits the sense  
Of the adjacent wharfs. The city cast  
Her people out upon her ; and Antony,  
Enthroned i' the market-place, did sit  
alone,

Whistling to the air ; which, but for  
vacancy,

Had gone to gaze on Cleopatra too,  
And make a gap in nature.

#### ANTONY'S DESPONDENCY.

O SUN, thy uprise shall I see no more :  
Fortune and Antony part here ; even  
here

Do we shake hands.—All come to this ;  
—the hearts

That spaniell'd me at heels, to whom I  
gave

Their wishes, do discandy, melt their  
sweets

On blossoming Cæsar ; and this pine is  
bark'd,

That overtopp'd them all. Betray'd I am :  
O this false soul of Egypt ! this grave  
charm.

Whose eye beck'd forth my wars, and  
call'd them home,

Whose bosom was my crownet, my chief  
end,

Like a right gipsy, hath, at fast and loose,  
Beguil'd me to the very heart of loss.

#### CLEOPATRA'S SPEECH ON AP- PLYING THE SERPENT TO HER BREAST.

Give me my robe, put on my crown ;  
I have

Immortal longings in me : now no more  
The juice of Egypt's grape shall moist  
this lip :

Yare, yare, good Iras ; quick—Methinks  
I hear

Antony call ; I see him rouse himself  
To praise my noble act : I hear him mock  
The luck of Cæsar, which the gods give  
men

To excuse their after-wrath : Husband, I  
come :

Now to that name my courage prove my  
title !

I am fire and air ; my other elements  
I give to baser life.—So,—have you done ?

Come then, and take the last warmth of  
my lips,

Farewell, kind Charmian ;—Iras, long  
farewell.

#### THE FOOL IN THE FOREST.

*As You Like It.*

A FOOL, a fool !—I met a fool i' the forest,  
A motley fool—a miserable world !—

As I do live by food, I met a fool ;  
Who laid him down and bask'd him in  
the sun,

And rail'd on Lady Fortune in good  
terms—

In good set terms—and yet a motley fool.  
“Good morrow, fool,” quoth I—“No,  
Sir,” quoth he,

“Call me not fool, till heaven have sent  
me fortune :”

And then he drew a dial from his poke,  
And, looking on it with lack-lustre eye,

Says, very wisely, “it is ten o'clock :  
Thus may we see,” quoth he, ‘ how the  
world wags :

’Tis but an hour ago since it was nine,  
And after one hour more ’t will be eleven ;

And so from hour to hour we ripe and  
ripe,

And then from hour to hour we rot and  
rot ;

And thereby hangs a tale." When I did  
hear

The motley fool thus moral on the time,  
My lungs began to crow like chanticleer,  
That fool should be so deep-contemplative ;  
And I did laugh, sans intermission,  
An hour by his dial. O noble fool !  
A worthy fool !—motley's the only wear.

### THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN.

ALL the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely  
players :

They have their exits and their entrances ;  
And one man in his time plays many  
parts,

His acts being seven ages. At first, the  
Infant,

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.  
And then, the whining School-boy, with  
his satchel,

And shining morning face, creeping like  
snail

Unwillingly to school. And then, the  
Lover,

Sighing like furnace, with a woful ballad  
Made to his mistress' eye-brow. Then a  
Soldier ;

Full of strange oaths, and bearded like  
the pard,

Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in  
quarrel,

Seeking the bubble reputation  
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then,  
the Justice,

In fair round belly, with good capon  
lined,

With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances ;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age  
shifts

Into the lean and slipper'd Pantaloon,  
With spectacles on nose, and pouch on  
side ;

His youthful hose well saved, a world too  
wide

For his shrunk shank ; and his big manly  
voice,

Turning again toward childish treble,  
pipes

And whistles in his sound. Last scene of  
all,

That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans  
every thing.

### THE USES OF ADVERSITY.

Now, my co-mates, and brothers in exile,  
Hath not old custom made this life more  
sweet

Than that of painted pomp ? are not these  
woods

More free from peril than the envious  
court ?

Here feel we but the penalty of Adam,  
The seasons' difference ; as the icy fang,

And churlish chiding of the winter's wind,  
Which, when it bites and blows upon my  
body,

Even 'till I shrink with cold, I smile, and  
say,

This is no flattery ; these are counsellors  
That feelingly persuade me what I am.

Sweet are the uses of adversity,  
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,

Wears yet a precious jewel in his head.  
And this our life, exempt from public  
haunt,

Finds tongues in trees, books in the run-  
ning brooks,

Sermons in stones, and good in every-  
thing.

### JACQUES AND THE WOUNDED DEER.

TO-DAY my Lord of Amiens and myself  
Did steal behind him, as he lay along

Under an oak, whose antique root peeps  
out

Upon the brook that brawls along this  
wood ;

To the which place a poor sequester'd  
stag,

That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a  
hurt,

Did come to languish : and, indeed, my  
lord,

The wretched animal heaved forth such groans,  
That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat  
Almost to bursting; and the big round tears  
Coursed one another down his innocent nose

In piteous chase; and thus the hairy fool,  
Much marked of the melancholy Jaques,  
Stood on the extremest verge of the swift brook,

Augmenting it with tears.

*Duke.* But what said Jaques?  
Did he not moralize this spectacle?

*Lord.* O, yes, into a thousand similes.  
First, for his weeping in the needless stream;

"Poor deer," quoth he, "thou mak'st a testament

As worldlings do, giving thy sum of more  
To that which had too much." Then,  
being alone,

Left and abandon'd of his velvet friends;  
"Tis right," quoth he, "thus misery  
doth part

The flux of company." Anon, a careless herd,

Full of the pasture, jumps along by him,

And never stays to greet him: "Ay,"  
quoth Jaques,

"Sweep on you fat and greasy citizens;  
'Tis just the fashion: Wherefore do you  
look

Upon that poor and broken bankrupt  
there?"

### INGRATITUDE.

BLOW, blow thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind

As man's ingratitude;

Thy tooth is not so keen,

Because thou art not seen,

Although thy breath be rude.

Heigh, ho! sing heigh ho! unto the  
green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving  
mere folly:

Then heigh, ho, the holly!

This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,  
That dost not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot:  
Though thou the waters warp,  
Thy sting is not so sharp  
As friend remember'd not.  
Heigh, ho! sing heigh ho! etc.

### UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE.

UNDER the greenwood tree  
Who loves to lie with me,  
And tune his merry note  
Unto the sweet bird's throat,  
Come hither, come hither, come hither.  
Here shall he see  
No enemy,  
But winter and rough weather.

Who doth ambition shun,  
And loves to lie i' the sun,  
Seeking the food he eats,  
And pleas'd with what he gets,  
Come hither, come hither, come hither:  
Here shall he see  
No enemy,  
But winter and rough weather.

### SHYLOCK'S REMONSTRANCE WITH ANTONIO.

*The Merchant of Venice.*

SIGNIOR Antonio, many a time and oft,  
In the Rialto you have rated me  
About my monies and my usances:  
Still have I borne it with a patient shrug  
For sufferance is the badge of all our  
tribe;

You call me—misbeliever, cut-throat dog  
And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,  
And all for use of that which is mine own.  
Well then, it now appears you need my  
help:

Go to then; you come to me, and you  
say,

"Shylock, we would have monies:" you  
say so;

You that did void your rheum upon my  
beard,

And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur  
Over your threshold; monies is your suit;  
What should I say to you? should I not  
say

"Hath a dog money? is it possible  
A cur can lend three thousand ducats?"

or  
Shall I bend low, and in a bondsman's  
key,  
With 'bated breath, and whispering  
humbleness,

Say this,—

"Fair sir, you spit on me on Wednesday  
last:

You spurn'd me such a day; another  
time

You call'd me—dog; and for these cour-  
tesies

I'll lend you thus much monies?"

#### CHEERFULNESS.

LET me play the fool:

With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles  
come;

And let my liver rather heat with wine,  
Than my heart cool with mortifying  
groans.

Why should a man, whose blood is warm  
within,

Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster?

Sleep when he wakes? and creep into  
the jaundice

By being peevish?

#### THE DECEIT OF APPEARANCES.

THE world is still deceiv'd with ornament.

In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,  
But, being season'd with a gracious voice,  
Obscures the show of evil? In religion,

What damned error, but some sober brow  
Will bless it, and approve it with a text,

Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?

There is no vice so simple, but assumes  
Some mark of virtue on its outward parts.

How many cowards, whose hearts are all  
as false

As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their  
chins

The beards of Hercules and frowning  
Mars;

Who, inward search'd 'have livers white  
as milk?

And these assume but valour's excrement  
To render them redoubted. Look on

beauty,  
And you shall see 'tis purchased by the  
weight;

Which therein works a miracle in nature,  
Making them lightest that wear most of  
it:

So are those crisped snaky golden locks,  
Which make such wanton gambols with  
the wind,

Upon supposed fairness, often known  
To be the dowry of a second head,

The skull that bred them in the sepulchre.

Thus ornament is but the guiled shore  
To a most dangerous sea; the beauteous  
scarf

Veiling an Indian beauty; in a word,  
The seeming truth which cunning times  
put on

To entrap the wisest.

#### MERCY.

THE quality of Mercy is not strain'd;  
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from  
heaven,

Upon the place beneath. It is twice  
blest'd;

It blesseth him that gives and him that  
takes.

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it be-  
comes

The thronèd monarch better than his  
crown.

His sceptre shows the force of temporal  
power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of  
kings;

But mercy is above this sceptred sway,—  
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings,

It is an attribute to God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest  
God's,

When mercy seasons justice. Therefore,  
Jew,

Though justice bethy plea, consider this,—  
That, in the course of justice, none of us  
Should see salvation. We do pray for  
mercy;  
And that same prayer doth teach us all to  
render  
The deeds of mercy.

### \*CELESTIAL MUSIC.

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon  
this bank !  
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of  
music  
Creep in our ears : soft stillness and the  
night  
Become the touches of sweet harmony.  
Sit, Jessica. Look, how the floor of  
heaven  
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold :  
There's not the smallest orb, which thou  
behold'st,  
But in his motion like an angel sings,  
Still quiring to the young-eyed cheru-  
bims,—  
Such harmony is in immortal souls ;  
But whilst this muddy vesture of decay  
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.  
Come, ho, and wake Diana with a hymn !  
With sweetest touches pierce your mis-  
tress' ear,  
And draw her home with music.

### THE LOVE OF MUSIC A TEST OF CHARACTER.

THE man that hath no music in himself,  
Nor is not moved with ooncord of sweet  
sounds,  
Is fit for treason, stratagems, and spoils :  
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,  
And his affections dark as Erebus :  
Let no such man be trusted.

### QUEEN ELIZABETH.

#### *Midsummer Night's Dream.*

I SAW, but thou could'st not,  
Flying between the cold moon and the  
earth,  
Cupid all-armed : a certain aim he took

At a fair vestal throned by the west,  
And loosed his love-shaft smartly from  
his bow,  
As it should pierce a hundred thousand  
hearts ;  
But I might see young Cupid's fiery shaft  
Quench'd in the chaste beams of the  
watery moon,  
And the imperial votaress passed on,  
In maiden meditation, fancy-free.

### THE SORROWS OF TRUE LOVE.

AH me ! For aught that ever I could  
read,  
Could ever hear by tale or history,  
The course of true love never did run  
smooth.

### THE POWER OF IMAGINATION.

THE poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,  
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from  
earth to heaven ;  
And, as imagination bodies forth  
The forms of things unknown, the poet's  
pen  
Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy  
nothing  
A local habitation and a name.

### FEMININE FRIENDSHIP.

O, AND is all forgot ?  
All school-days' friendship, childhood in-  
nocence ?  
We, Hermia, like two artificial gods,  
Have with our needles created both one  
flower,  
Both on one sampler, sitting on one  
cushion,  
Both warbling of one song, both in one key ;  
As if our hands, our sides, voices, and  
minds,  
Had been incorporate. So we grew  
together,  
Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,  
But yet a union in partition,  
Two lovely berries moulded on one stem :  
So, with two seeming bodies, but one  
heart ;  
Two of the first, like coats in heraldry,



Due but to one, and crowned with one  
crest.  
And will you rent our ancient love  
asunder,  
To join with men in scorning your poor  
friend?  
It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly:  
Our sex, as well as I, may chide you for it,  
Though I alone do feel the injury.

~~~~~  
BEATRICE.

Much Ado about Nothing.

DISDAIN and scorn ride sparkling in her
eyes,
Misprising what they look on; and her wit
Values itself so highly, that to her
All matter else seems weak; she cannot
love,
Nor take no shape nor project of affection,
She is so self-endear'd,
I never yet saw man,
How wise, how noble, young, how rarely
featured,
But she would spell him backward; if
fair-faced,
She'd swear the gentleman should be her
sister;
If black, why, nature, drawing of an
antic,
Made a foul blot: if tall, a lance ill-
headed;
If low, an agate very vilely cut:
If speaking, why a vane blown with all
winds:
If silent, why a block moved with none.
So turns she every man the wrong side out;
And never gives to truth and virtue, that
Which simpleness and merit purchaseth.

~~~~~  
SIGH NO MORE, LADIES.

SIGH no more, ladies, sigh no more;  
Men were deceivers ever;  
One foot in sea, and one on shore;  
To one thing constant never:  
Then sigh not so,  
But let them go,  
And be you blithe and bonny;  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into, Hey nonny, nonny.

Sing no more ditties, sing no mo  
Of dumps so dull and heavy;  
The fraud of men was ever so,  
Since summer first was leavy,  
Then sigh not so,  
But let them go,  
And be you blithe and bonny;  
Converting all your sounds of woe  
Into, Hey nonny, nonny.

~~~~~  
INNOCENCE.

I HAVE mark'd

A thousand blushing apparitions start
Into her face; a thousand innocent shames
In angel whiteness bear away those
blushes;
And in her eye there hath appear'd a fire,
To burn the errors that these princes hold
Against her maiden truth.

~~~~~  
A WOMAN'S TONGUE.

*Taming of the Shrew.*

THINK you, a little din can daunt my  
ears?  
Have I not in my time heard lions roar?  
Have I not heard the sea, puff'd up with  
winds,  
Rage like an angry boar, chafed with  
sweat?  
Have I not heard great ordnance in the  
field,  
And heaven's artillery thunder in the  
skies?  
Have I not in a pitched battle heard  
Loud 'larums, neighing steeds, and trum-  
pets' clang?  
And do you tell me of a woman's tongue;  
That gives not half so great a blow to the  
ear,  
As will a chestnut in a farmer's fire.

~~~~~  
THE MIND ALONE VALUABLE.

FOR 'tis the mind that makes the body
rich:
And as the sun breaks through the darkest
clouds,

So honour peereth in the meanest habit.
What ! is the jay more precious than the lark,

Because his feathers are more beautiful ?
Or is the adder better than the eel,
Because his painted skin contents the eyes ?

O, no, good Kate : neither art thou the worse

For this poor furniture and mean array.

A WIFE'S DUTY.

FE, fie ! unknit that threatening unkind brow ;

And dart not scornful glances from those eyes,

To wound thy lord, thy king, thy governor :

It blots thy beauty, as frost bites the meads :

Confounds thy fame, as whirlwinds shake fair buds ;

And in no sense is meet, or amiable.

A woman moved is like a fountain troubled,

Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty ;

And, while it is so, none so dry or thirsty
Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it.

Thy husband is thy lord, thy life, thy keeper,

Thy head, thy sovereign ; one that cares for thee,

And for thy maintenance ; commits his body

To painful labour, both by sea and land ;
To watch the night in storms, the day in cold,

While thou liest warm at home, secure and safe ;

And craves no other tribute at thy hands,
But love, fair looks, and true obedience :—

Too little payment for so great a debt.

Such duty as the subject owes the prince,
Even such a woman oweth to her husband :

And, when she's froward, peevish, sullen,
sour,

And not obedient to his honest will,

What is she but a foul contending rebel,
And graceless traitor to her loving lord !—
I am ashamed that women are so simple
To offer war where they should kneel for peace ;

Or seek for rule, supremacy, and sway,
When they are bound to serve, love, and obey.

Why are our bodies soft, and weak, and smooth,

Unapt to toil and trouble in the world,
But that our soft conditions and our hearts

Should well agree with our external parts ?

MIRTHFULNESS.

Love's Labour's Lost.

A MERRIER man,

Within the limit of becoming mirth,

I never spent an hour's talk withal :

His eye begets occasion for his wit ;

For every object that the one doth catch,

The other turns to a mirth-moving jest ;

Which his fair tongue (conceit's expositor)

Delivers in such apt and gracious words,

That aged ears play truant at his tales,

And younger hearings are quite ravished

So sweet and voluble in his discourse.

WOMAN'S EYES.

FROM woman's eyes this doctrine I derive :

They sparkle still the right Promethean fire ;

They are the books, the arts, the academies,

That show, contain, and nourish all the world.

THE POWER OF LOVE.

BUT love, first learned in a lady's eyes,

Lives not alone immured in the brain ;

But, with the motion of all elements,

Courses as swift as thought in every power ;

And gives to every power a double power,

Above their functions and their offices.
It adds a precious seeing to the eye :
A lover's eyes will gaze an eagle blind ;
A lover's ear will hear the lowest sound,
When the suspicious head of theft is
stopp'd ;

Love's feeling is more soft and sensible
Than are the tender horns of cockled
snails ;

Love's tongue proves dainty Bacchus gross
in taste ;

For valour, is not love a Hercules,
Still climbing trees in the Hesperides ?
Subtle as sphinx ; as sweet and musical
As bright Apollo's lute, strung with his
hair ; [the gods

And, when love speaks, the voice of all
Makes heaven drowsy with the harmony,
Never durst poet touch a pen to write
Until his ink were temper'd with love's
sighs :

O, then his lines would ravage savage ears,
And plant in tyrants mild humility.

WINTER.

WHEN icicles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home i' the
pail ;

When blood is nipt, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whoo !

Tu-whit ; tu-whoo ! a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marion's nose looks red and raw ;
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,
Tu-whoo !

Tu-whit ! tu-whoo ! a merry note,
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

SERENADE TO SYLVIA.

The Two Gentlemen of Verona.

WHO is Sylvia ? what is she,
That all our swains commend her ?

Holy, fair, and wise is she ;

The heavens such grace did lend her,
That she might admir'd be.

Is she kind, as she is fair ?

For beauty lives with kindness ;

Love doth to her eyes repair,

To help him of his blindness ;

And, being helped, inhabits there.

Then to Sylvia let us sing,

That Sylvia is excelling ;

She excels each mortal thing

Upon the dull earth dwelling :

To her let us garlands bring.

THE ABUSE OF POWER.

Measure for Measure.

O, it is excellent

To have a giant's strength : but tyrannous

To use it like a giant.

THE ABUSE OF AUTHORITY.

COULD great men thunder

As Jove himself does, Jove would ne'er
be quiet,

For every pelting, petty officer,
Would use his heaven for thunder ; no-
thing but thunder—

Merciful Heaven !

Thou rather, with thy sharp and sul-
phurous bolt,

Splitt'st the unwedgeable and gnarled
oak,

Than the soft myrtle : O, but man, proud
man !

Drest in a little brief authority
Most ignorant of what he's most assured,
His glassy essence,—like an angry ape,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high
heaven,

As make the angels weep.

THE FEAR OF DEATH.

AY, but to die, and go we know not
where ;

To lie in cold obstruction, and to rot ;

This sensible warm motion to become
 A kneaded clod ; and the delighted spirit
 To bathe in fiery floods, or to reside
 In thrilling regions of thick-ribb'd ice ;
 To be imprison'd in the viewless winds,
 And blown with restless violence about
 The pendent world ; or to be worse than
 worst
 Of those, that lawless and incertain
 thoughts
 Imagine howling !—'t is too horrible !
 The weariest and most loathed worldly
 life
 That age, ache, penury, and imprison-
 ment
 Can lay on nature, is a paradise
 To what we fear of death.

SLANDER.

Cymbeline.

No, 'tis slander ;
 Whose edge is sharper than the sword :
 whose tongue
 Outvenoms all the worms of Nile ; whose
 breath
 Rides on the posting winds, and doth
 belie
 All corners of the world : kings, queens,
 and states,
 Maids, matrons, nay, the secrets of the
 grave
 This viperous slander enters.

HARK ! HARK ! THE LARK !

(CLOTEN'S SONG.)

HARK ! hark ! the lark at heaven's gate
 sings,
 And Phœbus 'gins arise,
 His steeds to water at those springs
 On chalic'd flowers that lies ;
 And winking Mary-buds begin
 To ope their golden eyes ;
 With every thing that pretty bin ;
 My lady sweet, arise.

OTHELLO'S ACCOUNT OF HIS
COURTSHIP OF DESDEMONA.*Othello.*

MOST potent, grave, and reverend sig-
 niors,
 My very noble and approved good
 masters,—
 That I have ta'en away this old man's
 daughter,
 It is most true ; true, I have married her ;
 The very head and front of my offending
 Hath this extent, no more. Rude am I
 in my speech,
 And little bless'd with the set phrase of
 peace ;
 For since these arms of mine had seven
 years' pith,
 Till now some nine moons wasted, they
 have used
 Their dearest action in the tented field ;
 And little of this great world can I speak,
 More than pertains to feats of broil and
 battle ;
 And therefore little shall I grace my
 cause,
 In speaking for myself. Yet, by your
 gracious patience,
 I will a round unvarnish'd tale deliver
 Of my whole course of love ; what drugs,
 what charms,
 What conjuration, and what mighty
 magic
 (For such proceeding I am charged
 withal),
 I won his daughter with.

* * * * *

Her father loved me ; oft invited me ;
 Still questioned me the story of my life,
 From year to year ; the battles, sieges,
 fortunes,
 That I have pass'd.
 I ran it through, even from my boyish
 days,
 To the very moment that he bade me tell
 it.
 Wherein I spake of most disastrous
 chances,
 Of moving accidents by flood, and field ;
 Of hair-breadth 'scapes i' the imminent
 deadly breach ;
 Of being taken by the insolent foe,

And sold to slavery ; of my redemption
thence,
And portance in my travel's history :
Wherein of antres vast, and deserts idle,
Rough quarries, rocks, and hills, whose
heads touch heaven,
It was my hint to speak ;—such was the
process ;—
And of the cannibals that each other eat,
The Anthropophagi, and men whose
heads
Do grow beneath their shoulders. This
to hear,
Would Desdemona seriously incline :
But still the house affairs would draw her
thence ;
Which ever as she could with haste
despatch,
She'd come again, and with a greedy ear
Devour up my discourse : which I ob-
serving,
Took once a pliant hour, and found good
means
To draw from her a prayer of earnest
heart,
That I would all my pilgrimage dilate,
Whereof by parcels she had something
heard,
But not intently. I did consent ;
And often did beguile her of her tears,
When I did speak of some distressful
stroke,
That my youth suffer'd. My story being
done,
She gave me for my pains a world of
sighs :
She swore—In faith, 'twas strange, 'twas
passing strange ;
'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful :
She wish'd she had not heard it ; yet she
wish'd
That Heaven had made her such a man :
she thank'd me ;
And bade me, if I had a friend that **loved**
her,
I should but teach him how to tell my
story,
And that would woo her. Upon this
hint, I spake :
She loved me for the dangers I had
pass'd ;
And I loved her, that she did pity them.
This only is the witchcraft I have used.

OTHELLO'S SOLILOQUY BEFORE MURDERING HIS WIFE.

*Desdemona discovered asleep ; enter
Othello.*

It is the cause, it is the cause, my soul,—
Let me not name it to you, you chaste
stars !—
It is the cause.—Yet I'll not shed her
blood ;
Nor scar that whiter skin of hers than
snow,
And smooth as monumental alabaster.
Yet she must die, else she'll betray more
men.
Put out the light, and then—put out the
light ?
If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,
I can again thy former light restore,
Should I repent me :—but once put out
thine,
Thou cunningest pattern of excelling
nature,
I know not where is that Promethean
heat,
That can thy light relume.
When I have pluck'd thy rose,
I cannot give it vital growth again.

JEALOUSY.

TRIFLES, light as air,
Are, to the jealous, confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ.

SCENE BETWEEN OTHELLO AND DESDEMONA.

Desdemona. Alas, the heavy day !—
Why do you weep ?

*Am I the occasion of these tears, my
lord ?*

If, haply, you my father do suspect,
An instrument of this your calling back,
Lay not your blame on me ; if you have
lost him,

Why, I have lost him too.

Othello. Had it pleas'd Heaven
To try me with affliction ; had he rain'd
All kinds of sores and shames on my bare
head ;

Steep'd me in poverty to the very lips ;
Given to captivity ~~the~~ and my utmost
• hopes ;

I should have found in some part of my
soul

A drop of patience : but, alas ! to make
me

A fixed figure, for the hand of scorn
To point his slow unmoving finger at,—
Yet I could bear that too ; well, very
well :

But there, where I have garner'd up my
heart ;

Where either I must live, or bear no life ;
The fountain from the which my current
runs,

Or else dries up ; to be discarded thence !
Or keep it as a cistern for foul toads
To knot and gender in !—Turn thy com-
plexion there !

Patience, thou young and rose-lipp'd
cherubim ;

Ay, there, look grim as hell !

EMILIA'S INDIGNATION AGAINST SLANDERERS.

I WILL be hang'd, if some eternal villain,
Some busy and insinuating rogue,
Some cogging cozening slave, to get some
office,*

Hath not devis'd this slander ; I'll be
hanged else.

* * * *

The Moor's abus'd by some most villan-
ous knave,

Some base notorious knave, some scurvy
fellow :—

O heaven, that such companions thou'dst
unfold,

And put in every honest hand a whip,
To lash the rascals naked through the
world,

Even from the east to the west !

REPUTATION.

Good name, in man and woman, dear
my lord,

Is the immediate jewel of their souls ;

Who steals my purse, steals trash ; 'tis
something, nothing ;

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave
to thousands ;

But he, that filches from me my good
name,

Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.

OTHELLO'S DESPAIR.

O NOW, for ever

Farewell the tranquil mind ! farewell
content !

Farewell the plumed troop, and the big
wars

That make ambition virtue ! O, farewell !
Farewell the neighing steed, and the

shrill trump,
The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing
fife,

The royal banner ; and all quality,
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious
war !

And O you mortal engines, whose rude
throats

The immortal Jove's dread clamours
counterfeit,

Farewell ! Othello's occupation's gone !

OTHELLO'S DYING SPEECH.

SOFT you ; a word or two before you
go.

I have done the state some service, and
they know it ;

No more of that. I pray you, in your
letters,

When you shall these unlucky deeds re-
late,

Speak of me as I am ; nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice : then must
you speak

Of one, that loved not wisely, but too
well :

Of one not easily jealous, but, being
wrought,

Perplex'd in the extreme ; of one, whose
hand,

Like the base Judean, threw a pearl away,
Richer than all his tribe ; of one whose
subdu'd eyes,
Albeit unus'd to the melting mood,
Drop tears as fast as the Arabian trees
Their medicinal gum. Set you down
this :

And say besides,—that in Aleppo once,
Where a malignant and a turban'd Turk
Beat a Venetian, and traduc'd the state,
I took by the throat the circumcised dog,
And smote him—thus. [*Stabs himself.*]

QUEEN MAB.

Romeo and Juliet.

O, THEN, I see queen Mab hath been
with you.

She is the fairies' midwife ; and she comes
In shape no bigger than an agate stone
On the forefinger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies

Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep :
Her waggon spokes made of long spin-
ners' legs ;

The cover, of the wings of grasshoppers ;
The traces of the smallest spider's web ;
The collars, of the moonshine's watery
beams :

Her whip, of cricket's bone ; the lash, of
film ;

Her waggoner, a small gray-coated gnat,
Not half so big as a round little worm
Prick'd from the lazy finger of a maid :

Her chariot is an empty hazel nut,
Made by the joiner squirrel, or old grub,
Time out of mind the fairies' coach-
makers.

And in this state she gallops night by
night

Through lover's brains, and then they
dream of love :

On courtiers' knees, that dream on court-
sies straight :

O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream
on fees :

O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses
dream ;

Which oft the angry Mab with blisters
plagues,

Because their breaths with sweetmeats
tainted are.

Sometimes she gallops o'er a courtier's
nose,

And then dreams he of smelling out a
suit ;

And sometimes comes she with a tithe-
pig's tail,

Tickling a parson's nose as 'a lies asleep,
Then dreams he of another benefice :

Sometimes she driveth o'er a soldier's
neck,

And then dreams he of cutting foreign
throats,

Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish
blades,

Of healths five fathom deep ; and then
anon

Drums in his ear ; at which he starts, and
wakes ;

And, being thus frighted, swears a prayer
or two,

And sleeps again. This is that very Mab,
That plats the manes of horses in the
night ;

And bakes the elf-locks in foul sluttish
hairs,

Which, once untangled, much misfortune
bodes.

* * * * *

I talk of dreams ;

Which are the children of an idle brain ;
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy ;

Which is as thin of substance as the air ;
And more inconstant than the wind, who
woos

Even now, the frozen bosom of the north,
And, being anger'd, puffs away from
thence,

Turning his face to the dew-dropping
south.

~~~~~

### A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

O, SHE doth teach the torches to burn  
bright !

Her beauty hangs upon the cheek of  
night

Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear :  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too  
dear !

## THE GARDEN SCENE.

● *Romeo.* HE josts at scars that never felt a wound.—

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks!

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!—

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief,  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

Be not her maid, since she is envious:  
Her vestal livery is but sick and green,  
And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.—

It is my lady; O, it is my love:

O, that she knew she were!—

She speaks, yet she says nothing; what of that?

Her eye discourses, I will answer it.—

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:  
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,  
Having some business, do entreat her eyes  
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head:

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eye in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright;

That birds would sing, and think it were not night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

'Tis but thy name that is mine enemy;  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,

Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!

What's in a name? that which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet:

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,

Retain that dear perfection which he owes,  
Without that title:—Romeo, doff thy name:

And for that name, which is no part of thee,

Take all myself.

## THE WINNING OF JULIET.

*Juliet.* THOU know'st the mask of night is on my face:

Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek,

For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night.

Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny

What I have spoke: but farewell compliment!

Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say, Ay:

And I will take thy word; yet, if thou swear'st,

Thou mayst prove false; at lovers' perjuries,

They say Jove laughs. O, gentle Romeo, If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:

Or if thou think'st I am too quickly won, I'll frown and be perverse, and say thee

no, So thou wilt woo; but else not for the world.

In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond;

And therefore thou mayst think my 'haviour light.

But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true

Than those that have more cunning to be strange.

I should have been more strange, I must confess,

But that thou overheard'st, ere I was 'ware,

My true love's passion: therefore pardon me;

And not impute this yielding to light love, Which the dark night hath so discovered.

*Romeo.* Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear,



That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops.

*Juliet.* O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,

That monthly changes in her circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

*Romeo.* What shall I swear by ?

*Juliet.* Do not swear at all,

Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,

Which is the god of my idolatry,

And I'll believe thee.

*Romeo.* If my heart's dear love—

*Juliet.* Well, do not swear : although I joy in thee,

I have no joy of this contract to-night ;

It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden :  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease

to be

Ere one can say, It lightens. Sweet,  
good night !

This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,

May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.

Good night, good night ! as sweet repose  
and rest

Come to thy heart, as that within my breast !

*Romeo.* O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied ?

*Juliet.* What satisfaction canst thou have to-night ?

*Romeo.* The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

*Juliet.* I gave thee mine before thou didst request it :

And yet I would it were to give again.

*Romeo.* Wouldst thou withdraw it ? for what purpose, love ?

*Juliet.* But to be frank, and give it thee again.

And yet I wish but for the thing I have :

My bounty is as boundless as the sea,

My love as deep ; the more I give to thee,

The more I have, for both are infinite.

### JULIET'S IMPATIENCE.

COME, night !—Come, Romeo ! come,  
thou day in night !

For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night

Whiter than new snow on a raven's back.—

Come, gentle night ; come, loving, black-brow'd night,

Give me my Romeo : and, when he shall die,

Take him and cut him out in little stars,  
And he will make the face of heaven so

fine,

That all the world will be in love with night,

And pay no worship to the garish sun.

### RELUCTANCE TO PART.

*Juliet.* WILT thou be gone ? It is not yet near day.

It was the nightingale, and not the lark,  
That pierced the fearful hollow of thine

ear ;

Nightly she sings on yon pomegranate tree :

Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

*Romeo.* It was the lark, the herald of the morn,

No nightingale : look, love, what envious streaks

Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east ;  
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund

day

Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops :  
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

*Juliet.* Yon light is not daylight, I know it, I :

It is some meteor that the sun exhales,  
To be to thee this night a torch-bearer,

And light thee on thy way to Mantua ;  
Therefore stay yet, thou need'st not to be

gone.

*Romeo.* Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death :

I am content, so thou wilt have it so.  
I'll say, yon grey is not the morning's eye,

'Tis but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow,  
Nor that is not the lark, whose notes do

beat

The vaulty heaven so high above our heads :

I have more care to stay than will to go ;—  
Come, death, and welcome ! Juliet wills

it so,—

How is't, my soul? let's talk, it is not day.  
 • Juliet. It is, it is, hie hence, be gone,  
 away;

It is the lark that sings so out of tune,  
 Straining harsh discords, and unpleasing  
 sharps.

Some say, the lark makes sweet division;  
 This doth not so, for she divideth us:

Some say, the lark and loathed toad  
 change eyes;

O, now I would they had chang'd voices  
 too!

Since arm from arm that voice doth us  
 affray,

Hunting thee hence with hunts-up to the  
 day

O, now be gone; more light and light it  
 grows.

#### DREAMS.

IF I may trust the flattering eye of  
 sleep,

My dreams presage some joyful news at  
 hand:

My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne;  
 And, all this day, an unaccustom'd spirit  
 Lifts me above the ground with cheerful  
 thoughts.

I dreamt my lady came and found me  
 dead;

(Strange dream! that gives a dead man  
 leave to think,)

And breath'd such life with kisses in my  
 lips,

That I reviv'd, and was an emperor.

Ah me! how sweet is love itself possess'd,  
 When but love's shadows are so rich in  
 joy!

#### THE APOTHECARY.

I DO remember an apothecary,—  
 And hereabouts he dwells,—whom late I  
 noted

In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming  
 brow,

Culling of simples, meagre were his looks,  
 Sharp misery had worn him to the  
 bones:

And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,

An alligator stuff'd, and other skins  
 Of ill-shaped fishes; and about his shelves  
 A beggarly account of empty boxes,  
 Green earthen pots, bladders, and musty  
 seeds,

Remnants of packthread, and old cakes of  
 roses,

Were thinly scatter'd to make up a show.  
 Noting this penury, to myself I said,—

And if a man did need a poison now,  
 Whose sale is present death in Mantua,

Here lives a caitiff wretch would sell it  
 him.

#### THE DEATH OF ROMEO.

How oft when men are at the point of  
 death

Have they been merry? which their  
 keepers call

A lightning before death: O, how may I  
 Call this a lightning?—O, my love! my  
 wife!

Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy  
 breath,

Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:  
 Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign  
 yet

Is crimson in thy lips, and in thy cheeks,  
 And death's pale flag is not advanced  
 there.—

Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody  
 sheet?

O, what more favour can I do to thee,  
 Than with that hand that cut thy youth  
 in twain,

To sunder his that was thine enemy?  
 Forgive me, cousin?—Ah, dear Juliet,  
 Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I be  
 lieve

That unsubstantial Death is amorous;  
 And that the lean abhorred monster  
 keeps

Thee here in dark to be his paramour?  
 For fear of that, I will still stay with  
 thee;

And never from this palace of dim night  
 Depart again; here, here will I remain  
 With worms that are thy chambermaids;  
 O here

Will I set up my everlasting rest;  
 And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars

From this world-wearied flesh.—Eyes,  
look your last !  
Arms, take your last embrace ! and lips,  
O you  
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous  
kiss  
A dateless bargain to engrossing death !—  
Come, bitter conduct, come unsavoury  
guide !  
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run  
on  
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary  
bark !  
Here's to my love !—*[Drinks the poison.]*  
O, true apothecary !  
Thy drugs are quick.—Thus with a kiss  
I die. *[Dies.]*

#### CONSTANCE'S REPROACHES TO THE ARCHDUKE OF AUSTRIA.

*King John.*

O LYMOGES ! O Austria thou dost  
shame  
That bloody spoil : thou slave, thou  
wretch, thou coward ;  
Thou little valiant, great in villany !  
Thou ever strong upon the stronger side !  
Thou Fortune's champion that dost never  
fight  
But when her humorous ladyship is by  
To teach thee safety ; thou art perjured,  
too,  
And sooth'st up greatness. What a fool  
art thou,  
A ramping fool ; to brag, and stamp, and  
swear,  
Upon my party ! Thou cold-blooded  
slave,  
Hast thou not spoke like thunder on my  
side ?  
Been sworn my soldier ? bidding me de-  
pend  
Upon thy stars, thy fortune, and thy  
strength ?  
And dost thou now fall over to my foes ?  
Thou wear a lion's hide ! doff it for  
shame,  
And hang a calf's skin on those recreant  
limbs.

#### A COMPLETE LADY.

If lusty love should go in quest of  
beauty,  
Where should he find it fairer than in  
Blanch ?  
If zealous love should go in search of  
virtue,  
Where should he find it purer than in  
Blanch ?  
If love ambitious sought a match of birth,  
Whose veins bound richer blood than  
lady Blanch ?

#### PERFECTION NEEDS NO ADDITION.

To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,  
To throw a perfume on the violet,  
To smooth the ice, or add another hue  
Unto the rainbow, or with taper-light  
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to  
garnish,  
Is wasteful and ridiculous excess.

#### DESPONDENCY.

THERE'S nothing in this world can make  
me joy ;  
Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale,  
Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

#### THE CURSES OF ROYALTY.

It is the curse of kings to be attended  
By slaves that take their humours for a  
warrant  
To break within the bloody house of life ;  
And, on the winking of authority,  
To understand law ; to know the  
meaning  
Of dangerous majesty, when, perchance,  
it frowns  
More upon humour than advised respect.  
\* \* \* \* \*  
How oft the sight of means to do ill  
deeds,  
Makes deeds ill done ! Hadst not thou  
been by,  
A fellow by the hand of nature marked,

Quoted, and sign'd, to do a deed of  
 shame,  
 This murder had not come into my mind.  
 But, taking note of thy abhorr'd aspect,—  
 Finding thee fit for bloody villany,  
 Apt, liable, to be employ'd in danger,  
 I faintly broke with thee of Arthur's  
 death;  
 And thou, to be endeared to a king,  
 Made it no conscience to destroy a prince.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hadst thou but shook thy head, or made  
 a pause,  
 When I spake darkly what I purposed;  
 Or turn'd an eye of doubt upon my face,  
 As bid me tell my tale in express words;  
 Deep shame had struck me dumb, made  
 me break off,  
 And those thy fears might have wrought  
 fears in me.

#### ENGLAND INVINCIBLE.

THIS England never did, nor never  
 shall,  
 Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror,  
 But when it first did help to wound itself.  
 Now these her princes are come home  
 again,  
 Come the three corners of the world in  
 arms,  
 And we shall shock them: Naught shall  
 make us rue,  
 If England to itself do rest but true.

#### THE TRAGICAL FATE OF KINGS.

*King Richard II.*

OF comfort no man speak:  
 Let's talk of graves, of worms, and epitaphs;  
 Make dust our paper, and with rainy eyes  
 Write sorrow on the bosom of the earth.  
 Let's choose executors, and talk of wills;  
 And yet not so,—for what can we be-  
 queath,  
 Save our deposed bodies to the ground?  
 Our lands, our lives, and all are Boling-  
 broke's,  
 And nothing can we call our own but  
 death,

And that small model of the barren earth  
 Which serves as paste and cover to our  
 bones.  
 For heaven's sake let us sit upon the  
 ground,  
 And tell sad stories of the death of  
 kings:—  
 How some have been deposed, some slain  
 in war:  
 Some haunted by the ghosts they have  
 deposed:  
 Some poison'd by their wives; some  
 sleeping kill'd;  
 All murder'd:—for within the hollow  
 crown  
 That rounds the mortal temples of a king  
 Keeps Death his court: and there the  
 antic sits,  
 Scoffing his state, and grinning at his  
 pomp;  
 Allowing him a breath, a little scene,  
 To monarchise, be fear'd, and kill with  
 looks;  
 Infusing him with self and vain conceit,—  
 As if this flesh, which walls about our  
 life,  
 Were brass impregnable; and humour'd  
 thus,  
 Comes at the last, and with a little pin  
 Bores through his castle wall, and—fare-  
 well king!  
 Cover your heads, and mock not flesh  
 and blood  
 With solemn reverence; throw away  
 respect,  
 Tradition, form, and ceremonious duty,  
 For you have but mistook me all this  
 while:  
 I live with bread like you, feel want  
 taste grief,  
 Need friends: subjected thus,  
 How can you say to me I am a king?

#### RICHARD'S HUMILITY.

WHAT must the king do now? Must he  
 submit?  
 The king shall do it. Must he be de-  
 pos'd?  
 The king shall be contented. Must he  
 lose

The name of king? O' God's name, let it go.

I'll give my jewels for a set of beads;  
My gorgeous palace for a hermitage;  
My gay apparel for an alms-man's gown;  
My figur'd goblets for a dish of wood;  
My sceptre for a palmer's walking-staff;  
My subjects for a pair of carved saints;  
And my large kingdom for a little grave,  
A little little grave—an obscure grave:  
Or I'll be buried in the king's highway,  
Some way of common trade, where subjects' feet  
May hourly trample on their sovereign's head:

For on my heart they tread now whilst I live;

And, buried once, why not upon my head?

#### BOLINGBROKE'S ENTRY INTO LONDON.

THEN, as I said, the duke, great Bolingbroke,—

Mounted upon a hot and fiery steed,  
Which his aspiring rider seem'd to know,—  
With slow, but stately pace, kept on his course,

While all tongues cried—God save thee, Bolingbroke!

You would have thought the very windows spake,

So many greedy looks of young and old  
Through casements darted their desiring eyes

Upon his visage; and that all the walls,  
With painted imagery, had said at once,—  
Jesu preserve thee! welcome, Bolingbroke!

Whilst he, from one side to the other turning,

Bare-headed, lower than his proud steed's neck,

Bespake them thus,—*I thank you, countrymen:*

And thus still doing, thus he pass'd along.

As in a theatre, the eyes of men,  
After a well-graced actor leaves the stage,

Are idly bent on him that enters next,  
Thinking his prattle to be tedious:  
Even so, or with much more contempt,  
men's eyes

Did scowl on Richard; no man cried,  
God save him;

No joyful tongue gave him his welcome home:

But dust was thrown upon his sacred head;

Which with such gentle sorrow he shook off,—

His face still combating with tears and smiles,

The badges of his grief and patience,—  
That had not God, for some strong purpose, steel'd

The hearts of men, they must perforce have melted,

And barbarism itself have pitied him.

#### ENGLAND

THIS royal throne of kings, this scepter isle,

This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,  
This other Eden, demi-paradise;

This fortress, built by nature for herself,  
Against infection and the hand of war;

This happy breed of men, this little world;

This precious stone set in the silver sea,  
Which serves it in the office of a wall,

Or as a moat defensive to a house,  
Against the envy of less happier lands,

This blessed plot, this earth, this realm,  
this England.

#### HOTSPUR'S DESCRIPTION OF A FOP.

*King Henry IV.*

BUT, I remember, when the fight was done,

When I was dry with rage and extreme toil,

Breathless and faint, leaning upon my sword,

Came there a certain lord, neat, trimly dress'd,

Fresh as a bridegroom; and his chin, new  
reap'd,  
Show'd like a stubble land at harvest  
home;  
He was perfum'd like a milliner;  
And 'twixt his finger and his thumb he  
held  
A pouncet-box which ever and anon  
He gave his nose, and took 't away  
again;—  
Who, therewith angry, when it next came  
there,  
Took it in snuff:—and still he smil'd and  
talk'd;  
And, as the soldiers bore dead bodies by,  
He call'd them untaught knaves, un-  
mannerly  
To bring a slovenly unhandsome corse  
Betwixt the wind and his nobility.  
With many holiday and lady terms  
He question'd me; among the rest de-  
manded  
My prisoners, in your majesty's behalf.  
I then, all smarting with my wounds,  
being cold,  
To be so pester'd with a popinjay,  
Out of my grief and my impatience,  
Answer'd, neglectingly, I know not what;  
He should, or he should not; for he made  
me mad  
To see him shine so brisk, and smell so  
sweet,  
And talk so like a waiting gentlewoman,  
Of guns, and drums, and wounds (God  
save the mark),  
And telling me the sovereign'st thing on  
earth  
Was parmaceti for an inward bruise;  
And that it was great pity, so it was,  
That villanous saltpetre should be digg'd  
Out of the bowels of the harmless earth,  
Which many a good tall fellow had  
destroy'd  
So cowardly; and but for these vile guns,  
He would himself have been a soldier.

LADY PERCY'S SPEECH TO HER  
HUSBAND.

O, MY good lord, why are you thus alone?  
For what offence have I, this fortnight,  
been

A banish'd woman from my Harry's bed?  
Tell me, sweet lord, what is't that takes  
from thee  
Thy stomach, pleasure, and thy golden  
sleep?  
Why dost thou bend thine eyes upon the  
earth;  
And start so often when thou sitt'st alone?  
Why hast thou lost the fresh blood in thy  
cheeks;  
And given my treasures, and my rights  
of thee,  
To thick-eyed musing, and curs'd melan-  
choly?  
In thy faint slumbers, I by thee have  
watch'd,  
And heard thee murmur tales of iron  
wars:  
Speak terms of manage to thy bounding  
steed;  
Cry "Courage—to the field!" And  
thou hast talk'd  
Of sallies and retires; of trenches, tents,  
Of palisadoes, frontiers, parapets;  
Of basilisks, of cannon, culverin;  
Of prisoners' ransom, and of soldier's  
slain,  
And all the currents of a heady fight.  
Thy spirit within thee hath been so at  
war,  
And thus hath so bestir'd thee in thy  
sleep,  
That beads of sweat have stood upon thy  
brow,  
Like bubbles in a late-disturbed stream;  
And in thy face strange motions have  
appear'd,  
Such as we see when men restrain their  
breath  
On some great sudden haste. O what  
portents are these?  
Some heavy business hath my lord in  
hand,  
And I must know it, else he loves me not.

KING HENRY IV. TO PRINCE  
HENRY.

HAD I so lavish of my presence been,  
So common-hackney'd in the eyes o'  
men,  
So stale and cheap to vulgar company;

Opinion, that did help me to the crown,  
 Had still kept loyal to possession :  
 And left me in reputeless banishment,  
 A fellow of no mark nor likelihood.  
 By being seldom seen, I could not stir,  
 But, like a comet, I was wonder'd at :  
 That men would tell their children,  
 "This is he ;"

Others would say, "Where ?—which is  
 Bolingbroke ?"

And then I stole all courtesy from heaven,  
 And dress'd myself in such humility,  
 That I did pluck allegiance from men's  
 hearts,

Loud shouts and salutations from their  
 mouths,

Even in the presence of the crowned  
 king.

Thus did I keep my person fresh and  
 new ;

My presence, like a robe pontifical,  
 Ne'er seen, but wonder'd at ; and so my  
 state,

Seldom, but sumptuous, showed like a  
 feast ;

And won, by rareness, such solemnity.  
 The skipping king, he ambled up and  
 down

With shallow jesters, and rash bavin  
 wits,

Soon kindled, and soon burn'd ; carded  
 his state ;

Mingled his royalty with capering fools ;  
 Had his great name profaned with their  
 scorns,

And gave his countenance, against his  
 name,

To laugh at gibing boys, and stand the  
 push

Of every beardless vain comparative :  
 Grew a companion to the common streets,

Enfeoff'd himself to popularity :  
 That being daily swallow'd by men's eyes,

They surfeited with honey, and began  
 To loathe the taste of sweetness, whereof

a little  
 More than a little, is by much too much.

So, when he had occasion to be seen,  
 He was but as the cuckoo in June,

Heard, not regarded ; seen, but with  
 such eyes,

As, sick and blunted with community,  
 Afford no extraordinary gaze,

Such as is bent on sun-like majesty,  
 When it shines seldom in admiring eyes :  
 But rather drows'd, and hung their eye-  
 lids down,  
 Slept in his face and render'd such aspect  
 As cloudy men use to their adversaries :  
 Being with his presence glutted, gorged  
 and full.

### PRINCE HENRY'S DEFENCE OF HIMSELF.

GOD forgive them, that have so much  
 sway'd

Your majesty's good thoughts away from  
 me !

I will redeem all this on Percy's head,  
 And, in the closing of some glorious day,

Be bold to tell you that I am your son ;  
 When I will wear a garment all of blood,

And stain my favours in a bloody mask,  
 Which, wash'd away, shall scour my

shame with it.  
 And that shall be the day, whene'er it

lights,  
 That this same child of honour and re-  
 nown,

This gallant Hotspur, this all-praised  
 knight,

And your unthought-of Harry chance to  
 meet :

For every honour sitting on his helm,  
 Would they were multitudes ; and on my

head  
 My shames redoubled ! for the time will

come  
 That I shall make this northern youth

exchange  
 His glorious deeds for my indignities.

Percy is but my factor, good my lord,  
 To engross up glorious deeds on my be-  
 half ;

And I will call him to so strict account,  
 That he shall render every glory up,

Yea, even the slightest worship of his  
 time,

Or I will tear the reckoning from his  
 heart.

This, in the name of God, I promise  
 here :

The which, if He be pleas'd I shall per-  
 form,

I do beseech your majesty may salve  
The long-grown wounds of my intemper-  
ance :

If not, the end of life cancels all bands ;  
And I will die a hundred thousand deaths,  
Ere break the smallest parcel of this vow.

### YOUNG HARRY.

I SAW young Harry,—with his beaver on,  
His cuisses on his thighs, gallantly arm'd—  
Rise from the ground like feather'd Mer-  
cury,

And vaulted with such ease into his seat,  
As if an angel dropp'd down from the  
clouds,

To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus,  
And witch the world with noble horse-  
manship.

### PRINCE HENRY'S SPEECH ON THE DEATH OF HOTSPUR.

FARE thee well, great heart !

Ill-weav'd ambition, how much art thou  
shrunk !

When that this body did contain a spirit,  
A kingdom for it was too small a bound :  
But now, two paces of the vilest earth  
Is room enough :—this earth, that bears  
thee dead,

Bears not alive so stout a gentleman.

If thou wert sensible of courtesy,  
I should not make so dear a show of  
zeal :—

But let my favours hide thy mangled face ;  
And, even in thy behalf, I'll thank myself  
For doing these fair rites of tenderness.

Adieu, and take thy praise with thee to  
heaven :

Thy ignomy sleep with thee in thy grave,  
But not remember'd in thy epitaph !

### HENRY'S SOLILOQUY ON SLEEP.

How many thousand of my poorest  
subjects

Are at this hour asleep !—O sleep, O  
gentle sleep,

Nature's soft nurse, how have I frighted  
thee,

That thou no more wilt weigh my eyelids  
down,

And steep my senses in forgetfulness ?

Why rather, Sleep, liest thou in smoky  
cribs,

Upon uneasy pallets stretching thee,  
And hush'd with buzzing night-flies to thy  
slumber ;

Than in the perfumed chambers of the  
great,

Under the canopies of costly state,  
And lull'd with sounds of sweetest me-  
lody ?

O thou dull god ! why liest thou with the  
vile,

In loathsome beds, and leav'st the kingly  
couch,

A watch-case, or a common 'larum bell ?

Wilt thou upon the high and giddy mast,  
Seal up the ship-boy's eyes, and rock his  
brains

In cradle of the rude imperious surge.

And in the visitation of the winds,

Who take the ruffian billows by the top,  
Curling their monstrous heads, and hang-  
ing them

With deaf'ning clamours in the slippery  
clouds,

That, with the hurly, death itself  
awakes ?—

Canst thou, O partial Sleep, give thy  
repose

To the wet sea-boy in an hour so rude ;

And, in the calmest and most stillest  
night,

With all appliances and means to boot,

Deny it to a king ?—Then, happy low, lie  
down !

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

### THE CHARACTER OF KING HENRY V. BY HIS FATHER.

HE is gracious if he be observ'd ;

He hath a tear for pity, and a hand

Open as day, for melting charity :

Yet, notwithstanding, being incens'd, he  
flint ;

As humorous as winter, and as sudden

As flaws congealed in the spring of day.



His temper, therefore, must be well observ'd :

Chide him for faults, and do it reverently,  
When you perceive his blood inclin'd to mirth ;

But, being moody, give him line and scope ;

Till that his passions, like a whale on ground,

Confound themselves with working.

### FORTUNE.

WILL Fortune never come with both hands full,

But write her fair words still in foulest letters ?

She either gives a stomach, and no food,—

Such are the poor, in health ; or else a feast,

And takes away the stomach,—such are the rich,

That have abundance, and enjoy it not.

### PRINCE HENRY REBUKED BY HIS FATHER.

*King Henry.* COME hither to me,  
Harry :—

Depart the chamber, leave us here alone.

*Prince Henry.* I never thought to hear you speak again.

*King Henry.* Thy wish was father,  
Harry, to that thought :

I stay too long by thee, I weary thee.

Dost thou so hunger for my empty chair,  
That thou wilt needs invest thee with mine honours

Before thy hour be ripe ? O foolish youth !

Thou seek'st the greatness that will overwhelm thee.

Stay but a little ; for my cloud of dignity  
Is held from falling with so weak a wind,

That it will quickly drop : my day is dim.  
Thou hast stolen that, which, after some

few hours,

Were thine without offence ; and, at my death,

Thou hast seal'd up my expectation :

Thy life did manifest thou lov'dst me not,  
And thou wilt have me die assured of it.

Thou hid'st a thousand daggers in thy thoughts ;

Which thou hast whetted on thy stony heart,

To stab at half an hour of my life.

What ! canst thou not forbear me half an hour ?

Then get thee gone, and dig my grave thyself ;

And bid the merry bells ring to thine ear,  
That thou art crowned, not that I am dead.

Let all the tears that should bedew my hearses

Be drops of balm to sanctify thy head :

Only compound me with forgotten dust ;

Give that, which gave thee life, unto the worms.

Pluck down my officers, break my decrees :

For now a time is come to mock at form,  
Harry the Fifth is crown'd ;—up, vanity !  
Down, royal state ! all you sage counsellors, hence !

And to the English court assemble now,  
From every region, apes of idleness !

Now, neighbour confines, purge you of your scum :

Have you a ruffian, that will swear, drink, dance,

Revel the night ; rob, murder, and commit

The oldest sins the newest kind of ways ?

Be happy, he will trouble you no more :

England shall double gild his treble guilt ;

England shall give him office, honour, might :

For the fifth Harry from curb'd licence plucks

The muzzle of restraint, and the wild dog

Shall flesh his tooth in every innocent.

O my poor kingdom, sick with civil blows !

When that my care could not withhold thy riots,

What wilt thou do, when riot is thy care ?

O, thou wilt be a wilderness again,  
 Peopled with wolves, thy old inhabitants!  
*Prince Henry.* O, pardon me, my liege!  
 but for my tears, [*Kneeling.*]  
 The moist impediments unto my speech,  
 I had forestall'd this dear and deep  
 rebuke,  
 Ere you with grief had spoke, and I had  
 heard  
 The course of it so far. There is your  
 crown,  
 And He that wears the crown immortally,  
 Long guard it yours!

KING HENRY'S ADDRESS TO  
 HIS SOLDIERS.

*King Henry V.*

ONCE more unto the breach, dear friends,  
 —once more,  
 Or close the wall up with our English  
 dead!  
 In peace there's nothing so becomes a man  
 As modest stillness and humility;  
 But when the blast of war blows in our  
 ears,  
 Then imitate the action of the tiger;  
 Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood,  
 Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd  
 rage;  
 Then lend the eye a terrible aspect;  
 Let it pry through the portage of the head,  
 Like the brass cannon; let the brow o'er-  
 whelm it,  
 As fearfully as doth a galled rock  
 O'erhang and jutty his confounded base,  
 Swill'd with the wild and wasteful ocean.  
 Now set the teeth, and stretch the nostril  
 wide;  
 Hold hard the breath, and bend up every  
 spirit  
 To his full height! On, on, you noble  
 English,  
 Whose blood is fet from fathers of war-  
 proof!  
 Fathers that, like so many Alexanders,  
 Have, in these parts, from morn till even  
 fought,  
 And sheath'd their swords for lack of  
 argument.

NIGHT IN THE CAMP.

FROM camp to camp  
 The hum of either army stilly sounds,  
 That the fix'd sentinels almost receive  
 The secret whispers of each other's watch.  
 Fire answers fire; and through their paly  
 flames  
 Each battle sees the other's umber'd face:  
 Steed threatens steed, in high and boastful  
 neighs  
 Piercing the night's dull ear; and from  
 the tents,  
 The armourers, accomplishing the knights,  
 With busy hammers closing rivets up,  
 Give dreadful note of preparation.  
 The country cocks do crow, the clocks do  
 toll,  
 And the third hour of drowsy morning  
 name.  
 Proud of their numbers, and secure in soul,  
 The confident and over-lusty French  
 Do the low-rated English play at dice;  
 And chide the cripple tardy-gaited night,  
 Who, like a foul and ugly witch, doth  
 limp  
 So tediously away. The poor condemned  
 English,  
 Like sacrifices, by their watchful fires  
 Sit patiently, and inly ruminate  
 The morning's danger; and their gesture  
 sad,  
 Investing lank-lean cheeks, and war-worn  
 coats,  
 Presenteth them unto the gazing moon  
 So many horrid ghosts. O, now, who  
 will behold  
 The royal captain of this ruin'd band,  
 Walking from watch to watch, from tent  
 to tent,  
 Let him cry—Praise and glory on his  
 head!  
 For forth he goes, and visits all his host;  
 Bids them good-morrow, with a modest  
 smile;  
 And calls them—brothers, friends, and  
 countrymen.  
 Upon his royal face there is no note,  
 How dread an army hath enrounded  
 him;  
 Nor doth he dedicate one jot of colour  
 Unto the weary and all-watched night:  
 But freshly looks, and overbears attaint,

With cheerful semblance, and sweet majestic ;

That every wretch, pining and pale before,  
Beholding him, plucks comfort from his looks :

A largess universal, like the sun,  
His liberal eye doth give to every one,  
Thawing cold fear.

### MARTIAL SPIRIT.

Now all the youth of England are on fire,  
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies ;  
Now thrive the armourers, and honour's thought

Reigns solely in the breast of every man ;  
They sell the pasture now, to buy the horse ;

Following the mirror of all Christian kings,

With winged heels, as English Mercuries.  
For now sits Expectation in the air ;  
And hides a sword, from hilt unto the point,

With crowns imperial, crowns, and coronets,

Promis'd to Harry and his followers.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KING HENRY V.

HEAR him but reason in divinity,  
And, all admiring, with an inward wish  
You would desire the king were made a prelate :

Hear him debate of commonwealth affairs,  
You would say,—it hath been all-in-all  
his study ;

List his discourse of war, and you shall hear

A fearful battle render'd you in music :  
Turn him to any cause of policy,  
The Gordian knot of it he will unloose,  
Familiar as his garter ; that, when he speaks,

The air, a charter'd libertine, is still,  
And the mute wonder lurketh in men's ears,

To steal his sweet and honey'd sentences.

### KING HENRY'S SPEECH BEFORE THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,

Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd,

And rouse him at the name of Crispian.

He that shall live this day, and see old age,

Will yearly on the vigil feast his friends,

And say—To-morrow is saint Crispian :

Then will he strip his sleeve, and show his scars,

And say, These wounds I had on Crispin's day.

Old men forget ; yet all shall be forgot,

But he'll remember, with advantages,

What feats he did that day ; then shall our names,

Familiar in their mouths as household words,—

Harry the king, Bedford and Exeter,  
Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloster,—

Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd.

This story shall the good man teach his son ;

And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,

But we in it shall be remembered,—

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers ;

For he to-day that sheds his blood with me,

Shall be my brother ; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition :

And gentlemen in England, now a-bed,  
Shall think themselves accurs'd, they were not here ;

And hold their manhoods cheap, whiles any speaks

That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

### A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

*King Henry VI.*

WHAT stronger breast-plate than a heart untainted ?

Thrice is he arm'd that hath his quarrel just ;

And he but naked though lock'd up in steel  
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

### THE KING'S ENVY OF A SHEP- HERD'S LIFE.

O GOD! methinks it were a happy life,  
To be no better than a homely swain;  
To sit upon a hill, as I do now,  
To carve out dials quaintly, point by point,  
Thereby to see the minutes how they run:  
How many make the hour full complete,  
How many hours bring about the day,  
How many days will finish up the year,  
How many years a mortal man may live.  
When this is known, then to divide the times:

So many hours must I tend my flock;  
So many hours must I take my rest;  
So many hours must I contemplate;  
So many hours must I sport myself;

So many years ere I shall shear the fleece;  
So minutes, hours, days, weeks, months,  
and years,

Pass'd over to the end they were created,  
Would bring white hairs unto a quiet grave.

Ah, what a life were this! how sweet!  
how lovely!

### RICHARD DUKE OF GLOSTER'S DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF.

WHY, I can smile, and murder while I smile;

And cry, content, to that which grieves my heart;

And wet my cheeks with artificial tears,  
And frame my face to all occasions;

I'll drown more sailors than the mermaid shall;

I'll slay more gazers than the basilisk;

I'll play the orator as well as Nestor;

Deceive more slyly than Ulysses could;

And, like a Sinon, take another Troy:

I can add colours to the camelion;

Change shapes with Proteus for advantages,

And set the murd'rous Machiavel to school.

Can I do this and cannot get a crown?

### DYING WORDS OF WARWICK THE KING MAKER.

THESE eyes, that now are dimm'd with death's black veil,

Have been as piercing as the mid-day sun,  
To search the secret treasons of the world:

The wrinkles in my brows, now fill'd with blood,

Were liken'd oft to kingly sepulchres:

For who liv'd king, but I could dig his grave?

And who durst smile when Warwick bent his brow?

Lo, now my glory smear'd in dust and blood!

My parks, my walks, my manors that I Even now forsake me; and of all my lands,

Is nothing left me, but my body's length! Why, what is pomp, rule, reign, but earth and dust?

And, live we how we can, yet die we must.

### HENRY VI. ON HIS OWN LENITY.

I HAVE not stopp'd mine ears to their demands,

Nor posted off their suits with slow delays;  
My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,

My mildness hath allay'd their swelling [griefs,  
My mercy dried their water-flowing tears:

I have not been desirous of their wealth,  
Nor much oppress'd them with great subsidies,

Nor forward of revenge, though they much err'd.

### SUFFOLK'S HATRED OF HIS ENEMIES.

A PLAGUE upon them! wherefore should I curse them?

Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,

I would invent as bitter-searching terms,  
As curst, as harsh, and horrible to hear,  
Deliver'd strongly through my fixed teeth,  
With full as many signs of deadly hate,  
As lean-faced Envy in her loathsome cave:  
My tongue should stumble in mine earnest  
words:

Mine eyes shall sparkle like the beaten  
flint;

My hair be fixed on end, as one distract;  
Ay, every joint should seem to curse and  
ban:

And even now my burden'd heart would  
break,

Should I not curse them. Poison be their  
drink!

Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest that  
they taste!

Their sweetest shade, a grove of cypress  
trees!

Their chiefest prospect, murdering basi-  
lisks!

Their softest touch, as smart as lizard's  
stings;

Their music frightful as the serpent's hiss;  
And boding screech-owls make the con-  
cert full!

All the foul terrors in dark-seated hell.

### THE DUKE OF GLOSTER ON HIS DEFORMITY.

*King Richard III.*

Now is the winter of our discontent  
Made glorious summer by this sun of  
York;

And all the clouds that lour'd upon our  
house,

In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.  
Now are our brows bound with victorious  
wreaths;

Our bruised arms hung up for monu-  
ments;

Our stern alarums, chang'd to merry  
meetings,

Our dreadful marches to delightful mea-  
sures.

Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his  
wrinkled front;

And now, instead of mounting barbed  
steeds,

To fight the souls of fearful adversaries,—

He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber,  
To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.  
But I, that am not shaped for sportive  
tricks,

Nor made to court an amorous looking  
glass;

I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want  
love's majesty,

To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;  
I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,

Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,  
Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time

Into this breathing world, scarce half  
made up,

And that so lamely and unfashionable,  
That dogs bark at me, as I halt by  
them;—

Why I, in this weak piping time of  
peace,

Have no delight to pass away the time;  
Unless to spy my shadow in the sun,

And descant on mine own deformity;  
And therefore,—since I cannot prove a  
lover,

To entertain these fair well spoken  
days,—

I am determined to prove a villain,  
And hate the idle pleasures of these days.

### QUEEN MARGARET'S EXECRATIONS ON GLOSTER.

The worm of conscience still be-gnaw  
thy soul!

Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou  
liv'st,

And take deep traitors for thy dearest  
friends!

No sleep close up that deadly eye of  
thine,

Unless it be while some tormenting  
dream

Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils;  
Thou elvish-mark'd abortive, rooting  
hog!

### THE MURDER OF THE YOUNG PRINCES IN THE TOWER.

The tyrannous and bloody act is done,  
The most arch deed of piteous massacre  
That ever yet this land was guilty of.

Dighton and Forrest, whom I did suborn  
 To do this piece of ruthless butchery,  
 Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody  
 dogs,  
 Melting with tenderness and mild com-  
 passion,  
 Wept like two children, in their death's  
 sad story.

"O thus," quoth Dighton, "lay the  
 gentle babes—"

"Thus, thus," quoth Forrest, "girdling  
 one another

Within their alabaster innocent arms :  
 Their lips were four red roses on a stalk,  
 Which, in their summer beauty, kiss'd  
 each other.

A book of prayers on their pillow lay ;  
 Which once," quoth Forrest, "almost  
 changed my mind ;

But, O, the devil"—there the villain  
 stopp'd ;

When Dighton thus told on,—“We  
 smothered

The most replenished sweet work of  
 Nature,

That, from the prime creation, e'er she  
 fram'd.”—

Hence both are gone, with conscience and  
 remorse ;

They could not speak ; and so I left them  
 both,

To bear this tidings to the bloody king.

#### RICHMOND'S ADDRESS TO HIS ARMY BEFORE THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH.

FELLOWS in arms, and my most loving  
 friends,

Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny,  
 Thus far into the bowels of the land

Have we march'd on without impediment ;  
 And here receive we from our father

Stanley  
 Lines of fair comfort and encouragement.

The wretched, bloody, and usurping  
 boar,

That spoil'd your summer fields and fruit-  
 ful vines,

Swills your warm blood like wash, and  
 makes his trough

In your embowell'd bosoms,—this foul  
 swine

Lies now even in the centre of this isle,  
 Near to the town of Leicester, as we  
 learn :

From Tamworth thither, is but one day's  
 march.

In God's name, cheerly on, courageous  
 friends,

To reap the harvest of perpetual peace  
 By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

#### CARDINAL WOLSEY ON THE VICISSITUDES OF LIFE.

*King Henry VIII.*

FAREWELL, a long farewell, to all my  
 greatness,

This is the state of man ; to-day he puts  
 forth

The tender leaves of hope, to-morrow  
 blossoms,

And bears his blushing honours thick  
 upon him ;

The third day comes a frost, a killing  
 frost ;

And, when he thinks, good easy man,  
 full surely

His greatness is a ripening,—nips his root,  
 And then he falls, as I do. I have ven-  
 tured,

Like little wanton boys that swim on  
 bladders,

This many summers in a sea of glory ;  
 But far beyond my depth ; my high-blown  
 pride

At length broke under me ; and now has  
 left me,

Weary, and old with service, to the  
 mercy

Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide  
 me.

Vain pomp and glory of this world, I  
 hate ye ;

I feel my heart new open'd : O, how  
 wretched

Is that poor man that hangs on princes'  
 favours !

There is, betwixt that smile we would  
 aspire to,

That sweet aspect of princes, and their  
ruin,  
More pangs and fears, than wars or  
women have ;  
And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,  
Never to hope again.

### WOLSEY TO CROMWELL.

THUS far hear me, Cromwell ;  
And—when I am forgotten, as I shall be,  
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no  
mention  
Of me more must be heard of—say, I  
taught thee,  
Say, Wolsey,—that once trod the ways of  
glory,  
And sounded all the depths and shoals of  
honour,—  
Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to  
rise in ;  
A sure and safe one, though thy master  
missed it.  
Mark but my fall, and that that ruin'd  
me.  
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away am-  
bition :  
By that sin fell the angels ; how can man,  
then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by  
it ?  
Love thyself last : cherish those hearts  
that hate thee ;  
Corruption wins not more than honesty.  
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
To silence envious tongues. Be just,  
and fear not :  
Let all the ends thou aim'st at, be thy  
country's,  
Thy God's, and truth's. Then if thou  
fall'st, O Cromwell,  
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr !—Serve the  
King,  
And,—pr'ythee, lead me in ;  
There take an inventory of all I have ;  
To the last penny, 't is the King's : my  
robe,  
And my integrity to Heaven, is all  
I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell,  
Cromwell !  
Had I but serv'd my God with half the  
zeal

I serv'd my King, he would not in mine  
age  
Have left me naked to mine enemies.

### CARDINAL WOLSEY'S DEATH.

At last, with easy roads, he came to  
Leicester,  
Lodg'd in the abbey ; where the reverend  
abbot,  
With all his convent, honourably receiv'd  
him ;  
To whom he gave these words,—“ O  
father abbot,  
An old man, broken with the storms of  
state,  
Is come to lay his weary bones among  
ye ;  
Give him a little earth for charity ! ”  
So went to bed ; where eagerly his  
sickness  
Pursued him still ; and, three nights after  
this,  
About the hour of eight (which he him-  
self  
Foretold should be his last), full of repen-  
tance,  
Continual meditations, tears, and sor-  
rows,  
He gave his honours to the world again,  
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in  
peace.

### TAKE, O TAKE THOSE LIPS AWAY !

*Measure for Measure.*

TAKE, O take those lips away,  
That so sweetly were forsworn ;  
And those eyes, the break of day,  
Lights that do mislead the morn :  
But my kisses bring again,  
Seals of love, but seal'd in vain.

Hide, O hide those hills of snow,  
Which thy frozen bosom bears,  
On whose tops the pinks that grow  
Are of those that April wears :  
But first set my poor heart free,  
Bound in those icy chains by thee.

## LOVE AND LUST.

LOVE comforteth like sunshine after rain;  
 But Lust's effect is tempest after sun;  
 Love's gentle spring doth always fresh  
 remain;  
 Lust's winter comes, e'er summer half be  
 done. [dies:  
 Love surfeits not; Lust like a glutton  
 Love is all truth; Lust full of forged  
 lies.

*Venus and Adonis.*

## SUNRISE.

Lo! here the gentle lark, weary of rest,  
 From his moist cabinet mounts up on  
 high,  
 And wakes the morning, from whose  
 silver breast  
 The sun ariseth in his majesty;  
 Who doth the world so gloriously be-  
 hold,  
 The cedar-tops and hills seem burnish'd  
 gold.

*Venus and Adonis.*

## LUCRETIA SLEEPING.

HER lily hand her rosy cheek lies under,  
 Cozening the pillow of a lawful kiss;  
 Who, therefore angry, seems to part in  
 sunder,  
 Swelling on either side to want his bliss;  
 Between whose hills her head entombed  
 is;

\* \* \* \*

Without the bed her other fair hand was,  
 On the green coverlet, whose perfect  
 white  
 Show'd like an April daisy on the grass,  
 With pearly sweat, resembling dew of  
 night. [their light,  
 Her eyes, like marigolds, had sheath'd  
 And canopied in darkness sweetly lay,  
 Till they might open to adorn the day.

Her hair, like golden threads, play'd with  
 her breath;  
 O modest wantons! wanton modesty!  
 Showing life's triumph in the map of  
 death,

And death's dim look in life's mortality.  
 Each in her sleep themselves so beautify,  
 As if between them twain there were  
 no strife, [in life.  
 But that life liv'd in death, and death  
 Her breasts, like ivory globes circled with  
 blue,  
 A pair of maiden worlds unconquered,  
 Save of their lord, no bearing yoke they  
 knew,  
 And him by oath they truly honoured.

*Rape of Lucret.*

## WHAT WIN I IF I GAIN?

WHAT win I if I gain the thing I seek?  
 A dream, a breath, a froth of fleeting joy.  
 Who buys a minute's mirth, to wail a  
 week?  
 Or sells eternity to get a toy?  
 For one sweet grape, who will the wine  
 destroy? [crown,  
 Or what fond beggar, but to touch the  
 Would with the sceptre strait be  
 stricken down?

*Rape of Lucret.*

VENUS WITH THE DEAD BODY  
OF ADONIS.

SHE looks upon his lips, and they are  
 pale;  
 She takes him by the hand, and that is  
 cold;  
 She whispers in his ear a heavy tale,  
 As if he heard the woeful words she told:  
 She lifts the coffer-lids that close his  
 eyes,  
 Where, lo, two lamps burnt out in  
 darkness lies!

Two glasses, where herself herself beheld  
 A thousand times, and now no more re-  
 flect; {excell'd,  
 Their virtue lost, wherein they late  
 And every beauty robb'd of his effect,  
 Wonder of time! (quoth she) this is my  
 spite,  
 That, thou being dead, the day should  
 yet be light.



Since thou art dead, lo ! here I prophesy,  
Sorrow on love hereafter shall attend ;  
It shall be waited on with jealousy,  
Find sweet beginning, but unsavoury end ;  
Ne'er settled equally, but high or low ;  
That all love's pleasure shall not match  
his woe.

It shall be fickle, false, and full of fraud,  
And shall be blasted in a breathing-while,  
The bottom poison, and the top o'er-  
straw'd  
With sweets that shall the sharpest sight  
beguile.  
The strongest body shall it make most  
weak,  
Strike the wise dumb, and teach the  
fool to speak.

It shall be sparing, and too full of riot,  
Teaching decrepid age to tread the mea-  
sures ;  
The staring ruffian shall it keep in quiet,  
Pluck down the rich, enrich the poor  
with treasures ;  
It shall be raging mad, and silly mild,  
Make the young old, the old become a  
child.

It shall suspect where is no cause of fear ;  
It shall not fear where it should most  
distrust ;  
It shall be merciful, and too severe,  
And most deceiving when it seems most  
just ;  
Perverse it shall be, when it seems  
most toward,  
Put fear to valour, courage to the  
coward.

It shall be cause of war and dire  
events,  
And set dissention 'twixt the son and  
sire ;  
Subject and servile to all discontents,  
As dry combustious matter is to fire.  
Sith in his prime, death doth my love  
destroy,  
They that love best, their loves shall  
not enjoy.

By this, the boy that by her side lay kill'd  
Was melted like a vapour from her sight,

And in his blood, that on the ground lay  
spill'd,  
A purple flower sprung<sup>e</sup> up, chequer'd<sup>e</sup>  
with white,  
Resembling well his pale cheeks, and  
the blood  
Which in round drops upon their  
whiteness stood.

She bows her head the new-sprung flower  
to smell,  
Comparing it to her Adonis' breath ;  
And says within her bosom it shall dwell,  
Since he himself is reft from her by death ;  
She crops the stalk, and in the breach  
appears  
Green dropping sap, which she com-  
pares to tears.

Poor flower ! (quoth she) this was thy  
father's guise  
(Sweet issue of a more sweet-smelling  
sire),  
For every little grief to wet his eyes,  
To grow unto himself was his desire,  
And so 't is thine ; but know, it is as  
good<sup>e</sup>  
To wither in my breast as in his blood.

Here was thy father's bed, here in my  
breast,  
Thou art the next of blood, and 't is thy  
right ;  
Low in this hollow cradle take thy rest,  
My throbbing heart shall rock thee day  
and night :  
There shall not be one minute of an  
hour,  
Wherein I will not kiss my sweet love's  
flower.

Thus weary of the world, away she hies,  
And yokes her silver doves, by whose  
swift aid  
Their mistress, mounted, through the  
empty skies  
In her light chariot quickly is convey'd ;  
Holding their course to Paphos, where<sup>e</sup>  
their queen  
Means to immure herself, and not be  
seen.

*Venus and Adonis.*

## SONNET.

FULL many a glorious morning have I  
 seen  
 Flatter the mountain tops with sovereign  
 eye,  
 Kissing with golden face the meadows  
 green,  
 Gilding pale streams with heavenly al-  
 chemy ;  
 Anon permit the basest clouds to ride  
 With ugly rack on his celestial face,  
 And from the forlorn world his visage  
 hide,  
 Stealing unseen to west with this dis-  
 grace :  
 Even so my sun one early morn did shine  
 With all-triumphant splendour on my  
 brow ;  
 But, out, alack ! he was but one hour  
 mine,  
 The region cloud hath mask'd him from  
 me now.  
 Yet him for this my love no whit dis-  
 daineth ;  
 \* Suns of the world may stain when  
 heaven's sun staineth. .

## SONNET.

NOR marble, not the gilded monuments  
 Of princes, shall outlive this powerful  
 rhyme ;  
 But you shall shine more bright in these  
 contents  
 Than unswept stone, besmear'd with  
 sluttish time.  
 When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
 And broils root out the work of masonry,  
 Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire  
 shall burn  
 The living record of your memory.  
 'Gainst death and all oblivious enmity  
 Shall you pace forth ; your praise shall  
 still find room,  
 Even in the eyes of all posterity  
 That wear this world out to the ending  
 doom.  
 So, till the judgment that yourself arise,  
 You live in this, and dwell in lovers'  
 eyes.

## SONNET.

To me, fair friend, you never can be old,  
 For as you were when first your eye I  
 ey'd,  
 Such seems your beauty still. Three  
 winters' cold  
 Have from the forests shook three sum-  
 mers' pride :  
 Three beauteous springs to yellow autumn  
 turn'd  
 In process of the seasons have I seen,  
 Three April perfumes in three hot Junes  
 burn'd,  
 Since first I saw you fresh, which yet are  
 green.  
 Ah ! yet doth beauty, like a dial hand,  
 Steal from his figure, and no pace per-  
 ceiv'd !  
 So your sweet hue, which methinks still  
 doth stand,  
 Hath motion, and mine eye may be  
 deceiv'd.  
 For fear of which, hear this, thou age  
 unbred,  
 Ere you were born was beauty's sum-  
 mer dead.

## SONNET.

WHEN to the sessions of sweet silen-  
 ce  
 thought  
 I summon up remembrance of things  
 past,  
 I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,  
 And with old woes new wail my dear  
 time's waste :  
 Then can I drown an eye, unus'd to flow,  
 For precious friends hid in death's date-  
 less night,  
 And weep afresh love's long-since-can-  
 cell'd woe,  
 And moan the expense of many a vanish'd  
 sight.  
 Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,  
 And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er  
 The sad account of fore-bemoaned moan,  
 Which I new pay as if not paid before.  
 But if the while I think on thee, dear  
 friend,  
 All losses are restor'd, and sorrows  
 end.

[ANONYMOUS. 1635.]

## THE FAIRY QUEEN.

COME follow, follow me,  
 You, fairy elves that be :  
 Which circle on the greene,  
 Come follow Mab your queene.  
 Hand in hand let's dance around,  
 For this place is fairy ground.

When mortals are at rest,  
 And snoring in their nest ;  
 Unheard, and unesp'y'd,  
 Through key-holes we do glide ;  
 Over tables, stools, and shelves,  
 We trip it with our fairy elves.

And, if the house be foul  
 With platter, dish, or bowl,  
 Up stairs we nimbly creep,  
 And find the sluts asleep :  
 There we pinch their armes and thighes ;  
 None escapes, nor none espies.

But if the house be swept,  
 And from uncleanness kept,  
 We praise the household maid,  
 And duely she is paid :  
 For we use before we goe  
 To drop a tester in her shoe.

Upon a mushroome's head  
 Our table-cloth we spread ;  
 A grain of rye, or wheat,  
 Is manchet, which we eat ;  
 Pearly drops of dew we drink  
 In acorn cups fill'd to the brink.

The brains of nightingales,  
 With unctuous fat of snailles,  
 Between two cockles stew'd,  
 Is meat that's easily chew'd ;  
 Tailles of wormes, and marrow of mice,  
 Do make a dish that's wondrous nice.

The grasshopper, gnat, and fly,  
 Serve for our minstrelsie ;  
 Grace said, we dance a while,  
 And so the time beguile :  
 And if the moon doth hide her head,  
 The gloe-worm lights us home to bed.

On tops of dewie grasse  
 So nimbly do we passe ;  
 The young and tender stalk  
 Ne'er bends when we do walk :  
 Yet in the morning may be seen  
 Where we the night before have been.

[SIR WALTER RALEIGH. 1593.]

## THE SOUL'S ERRAND.

Go, soul, the body's guest,  
 Upon a thankless errand !  
 Fear not to touch the best ;  
 The truth shall be thy warrant.  
 Go, since I needs must die,  
 And give the world the lie.

Go, tell the Court—it glows  
 And shines like rotten wood ;  
 Go, tell the Church—it shows  
 What's good, and doth no good.  
 If Church and Court reply,  
 Then give them both the lie.

Tell Potentates—they live  
 Acting by others' action,  
 Not loved unless they give,  
 Not strong but by a faction.  
 If Potentates reply,  
 Give Potentates the lie.

Tell men of high condition  
 That rule affairs of state—  
 Their purpose is ambition,  
 Their practice—only hate.  
 And if they once reply,  
 Then give them all the lie.

Tell them that brave it most,  
 They beg for more by spending  
 Who, in their greatest cost,  
 Seek nothing but commending  
 And if they make reply,  
 Then give them all the lie.

Tell Zeal—it lacks devotion ;  
 Tell Love—it is but lust ;  
 Tell Time—it is but motion ;  
 Tell Flesh—it is but dust.  
 And wish them not reply,  
 For thou must give the lie.

Tell Age—it daily wasteth ;  
 Tell Honour—how it alters ;  
 Tell Beauty—how she blasteth ;  
 Tell Favour how it falters.  
 And as they shall reply,  
 Give every one the lie.

Tell Wit—how much it wrangles  
 In tickle points of niceness ;  
 Tell Wisdom—she entangles  
 Herself in over-wiseness.  
 And when they do reply,  
 Straight give them both the lie.

Tell Physic—of her boldness ;  
 Tell Skill—it is pretension ;  
 Tell Charity—of coldness ;  
 Tell Law—it is contention.  
 And as they do reply,  
 So give them still the lie.

Tell Fortune—of her blindness ;  
 Tell Nature—of decay ;  
 Tell Friendship—of unkindness ;  
 Tell Justice—of delay.  
 And if they will reply,  
 Then give them all the lie.

Tell Arts—they have no soundness.  
 But vary by esteeming ;  
 Tell Schools—they want profoundness,  
 And stand too much on seeming.  
 If Arts and Schools reply,  
 Give Arts and Schools the lie.

Tell Faith—it's fled the City ;  
 Tell—how the Country erreth ;  
 Tell—Manhood shakes off pity ;  
 Tell—Virtue least preferreth.  
 And if they do reply,  
 Spare not to give the lie.

So when thou hast, as I  
 Commanded thee, done blabbing,  
 Although to give the lie  
 Deserves no less than stabbing,  
 Yet stab at thee who will,  
 No stab the soul can kill.

#### DULCINA.

[Ascribed to SIR WALTER RALEIGH on doubtful authority.]

As at noon Dulcina rested  
 In her sweet and shady bower,

Came a shepherd, and requested  
 In her lap to sleep an hour  
 But from her look,  
 A wound he took  
 So deep, that for a further boon  
 The nymph he prays.  
 Whereto she says,  
 Forego me now, come to me soon.

But in vain she did conjure him  
 To depart her presence so ;  
 Having a thousand tongues to allure him  
 And but one to bid him go ;  
 Where lips invite,  
 And eyes delight,  
 And cheeks, as fresh as rose in June,  
 Persuade delay ;  
 What boots she say,  
 Forego me now, come to me soon ?

He demands what time for pleasure  
 Can there be more fit than now ;  
 She says, night gives love that leisure,  
 Which the day can not allow.  
 He says, the sight  
 Improves delight ;  
 Which she denies : night's murky noon  
 In Venus' plays  
 Makes bold, she says ;  
 Forego me now, come to me soon.

But what promise or profession  
 From his hands could purchase scope,  
 Who would sell the sweet possession  
 Of such beauty for a hope ?  
 Or for the sight  
 Of lingering night  
 Forego the present joys of noon ?  
 Though ne'er so fair  
 Her speeches were,  
 Forego me now, come to me soon.

How, at last, agreed these lovers ?  
 She was fair, and he was young :  
 The tongue may tell what th'eye discovers,  
 Joys unseen are never sung.  
 Did she consent,  
 Or he relent ;  
 Accepts he night, or grants she noon ;  
 Left he her a maid,  
 Or not ; she said,  
 Forego me now, come to me soon.

[G. WITHER. 1588—1667.]

## SLEEP, BABY, SLEEP!

SLEEP, baby, sleep! what ails my dear,  
 What ails my darling thus to cry?  
 Be still, my child, and lend thine ear,  
 To hear me sing thy lullaby.  
 My pretty lamb, forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

Thou blessed soul, what canst thou fear?  
 What thing to thee can mischief do?  
 Thy God is now thy father dear,  
 His holy Spouse thy mother too.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Though thy conception was in sin,  
 A sacred bathing thou hast had;  
 And though thy birth unclean hath been,  
 A blameless babe thou now art made.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my dear; sweet baby, sleep.

While thus thy lullaby I sing,  
 For thee great blessings ripening be;  
 Thine Eldest Brother is a king,  
 And hath a kingdom bought for thee.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Sweet baby, sleep, and nothing fear;  
 For whosoever thee offends  
 By thy protector threaten'd are,  
 And God and angels are thy friends.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

When God with us was dwelling here,  
 In little babes He took delight;  
 Such innocents as thou, my dear,  
 Are ever precious in his sight.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

A little infant once was He;  
 And strength in weakness then was laid

Upon His virgin mother's knee,  
 That power to thee might be convey'd.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

In this thy frailty and thy need  
 He friends and helpers both prepare,  
 Which thee shall cherish, clothe, and feed,  
 For of thy weal they tender are.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

The King of kings, when he was born,  
 Had not so much for outward ease;  
 By Him such dressings were not worn,  
 Nor such like swaddling-clothes as these.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Within a manger lodged thy Lord,  
 Where oxen lay, and asses fed:  
 Warm rooms we do to thee afford,  
 An easy cradle or a bed.  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

The wants that He did then sustain  
 Have purchased wealth, my babe, for thee;  
 And by His torments and His pain  
 Thy rest and ease secur'd be.  
 My baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

Thou hast, yet more, to perfect this,  
 A promise and an earnest got  
 Of gaining everlasting bliss,  
 Though thou, my babe, perceiv'st it not,  
 Sweet baby, then forbear to weep;  
 Be still, my babe; sweet baby, sleep.

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SHALL I, WASTING IN DESPAIR.

SHALL I, wasting in despair,
 Die because a woman's fair?
 Or make pale my cheeks with care
 'Cause another's rosy are?
 Be she fairer than the day,
 Or the flow'ry meads in May,
 If she be not so to me,
 What care I how fair she be?

Should my heart be griev'd or pin'd
 'Cause I see a woman kind?
 Or a well-dispos'd nature
 Join'd with a lovely feature?

Be she meeker, kinder than
Turtle-dove or pelican,
If she be not so to me,
What care I how kind she be?

Shall a woman's virtues move
Me to perish for her love?
Or her well-deservings, known,
Make me quite forget my own?
Be she with that goodness blest
Which may gain her name of best,
If she be not such to me,
What care I how good she be?

'Cause her fortune seems too high,
Shall I play the fool and die?
Those that bear a noble mind,
Where they want of riches find,
Think what with them they would do
That without them dare to woo;
And unless that mind I see,
What care I how great she be?

Great, or good, or kind, or fair,
I will ne'er the more despair:
If she love me, this believe,
I will die ere she shall grieve:
If she slight me when I woo,
I can scorn and let her go;
For if she be not for me,
What care I for whom she be?

I LOVED A LASS, A FAIR ONE.

I LOV'D a lass, a fair one,
As fair as e'er was seen;
She was indeed a rare one,
Another Sheba Queen.
But, fool as then I was,
I thought she lov'd me too:
But now, alas! she's left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

Her hair like gold did glister,
Each eye was like a star,
She did surpass her sister,
Which pass'd all others far;
She would me honey call,
She'd, oh—she'd kiss me too:
But now, alas! she's left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

Many a merry meeting
My love and I have had;

She was my only sweeting,
She made my heart full glad;
The tears stood in her eyes,
Like to the morning dew:
But now, alas! she's left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

Her cheeks were like the cherry,
Her skin as white as snow;
When she was blythe and merry,
She angel-like did show;
Her waist exceeding small,
The fives did fit her shoe:
But now, alas! she's left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

In summer time or winter
She had her heart's desire;
I still did scorn to stint her
From sugar, sack, or fire;
The world went round about,
No cares we ever knew:
But now, alas! she's left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

To maidens' vows and swearing
Henceforth no credit give;
You may give them the hearing,
But never them believe;
They are as false as fair,
Unconstant, frail, untrue:
For mine, alas! hath left me,
Falero, lero, loo.

[THOMAS HEYWOOD. 1607.]

GOOD-MORROW.

PACK clouds away, and welcome day,
With night we banish sorrow;
Sweet air, blow soft; mount, larks, aloft,
To give my love good-morrow.
Wings from the wind to please her mind,
Notes from the lark I'll borrow;
Bird, prune thy wing; nightingale, sing,
To give my love good-morrow.

Wake from thy nest, robin redbreast;
Sing, birds, in every furrow;
And from each hill let music shrill
Give my fair love good-morrow.
Blackbird and thrush in every bush,
Stare, linnnet, and cock-sparrow;
You pretty elves, among yourselves,
Sing my fair love good-morrow.

YE LITTLE BIRDS THAT SIT AND SING.

Faire Maide of the Exchange.

Ye little birds that sit and sing
Amidst the shady valleys,
And see how Phillis sweetly walks
Within her garden alleys;
Go, pretty birds, about her bower,
Sing, pretty birds; she may not lower.
Ah me! methinks I see her frown:
Ye pretty wantons, warble.

Go tell her through your chirping bills
As you by me are bidden,
To her is only known my love,
Which from the world is hidden.
Go, pretty birds, and tell her so;
See that your notes strain not too low,
For still methinks I see her frown:
Ye pretty wantons, warble.

Go tune your voices' harmony,
And sing I am her lover;
Strain loud and sweet, that every note
With sweet content may move her;
And she that hath the sweetest voice,
Tell her I will not change my choice;
Yet still methinks I see her frown:
Ye pretty wantons, warble.

Oh, fly, make haste; see, see, she falls
Into a pretty slumber;
Sing round about her rosy bed,
That, waking, she may wonder.
Sing to her, 'tis her lover true
That sendeth love by you and you;
And when you hear her kind reply,
Return with pleasant warblings.

(SIR HENRY WOTTON. 1568—1639)

YOU MEANER BEAUTIES.

You meaner beauties of the night,
That poorly satisfy our eyes
More by your number than your light,—
You common people of the skies,
What are you when the moon shall
rise?

Ye violets that first appear,
By your pure purple mantles known,

Like the proud virgin of the year,
As if the spring were all your own,—
What are you when the rose is blown?

Ye curious chanters of the wood,
That warble forth dame Nature's lays,
Thinking your passion understood
By your weak accents,—what's your
praise
When Philomel her voice shall raise?

So when my mistress shall be seen,
In sweetness of her looks and mind,
By virtue first, then choice, a queen,
Tell me if she was not design'd
Th' eclipse and glory of her kind.

THE CHARACTER OF A HAPPY LIFE.

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will,
Whose armour is his honest thought,
And simple truth his utmost skill!

Whose passions not his masters are,
Whose soul is still prepar'd for death,
Untied unto the world by care
Of public fame or private breath.

Who envies none that chance doth
raise,
Nor vice hath ever understood;
How deepest wounds are given by praise,
Nor rules of state, but rules of good.

Who hath his life from rumours freed,
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,
Nor ruin make oppressors great.

Who God doth love and early pray
More of his grace than gifts to lend,
And entertains the harmless day
With a religious book or friend.

This man is freed from servile hands,
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

[WILLIAM WALSH. 1663—1709.]

RIVAERY IN LOVE.

OF all the torments, all the cares,
With which our lives are curst;
Of all the plagues a lover bears,
Sure rivals are the worst!
By partners of each other kind,
Afflictions easier grow;
In love alone we hate to find
Companions of our woe.

Sylvia, for all the pangs you see
Are labouring in my breast;
I beg not you would favour me,
Would you but slight the rest.
How great soe'er your rigours are,
With them alone I'll cope:
I can endure my own despair,
But not another's hope.

[EDMUND WALLER. 1603—1687.]

GO, LOVELY ROSE!

Go, lovely rose!
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows,
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.

Tell her that's young,
And shuns to have her graces spied,
That had'st thou sprung
In deserts where no men abide,
Thou must have uncommended died.

Small is the worth
Of beauty from the light retired:
Bid her come forth,
Suffer herself to be desired,
And not blush so to be admired.

Then die! that she
The common fate of all things rare
May read in thee,—
How small a part of time they share
That are so wondrous sweet and fair.

ADDITIONAL STANZA BY KIRKE WHITE.

[Yet, though thou fade,
From thy dead leaves let fragrance rise;

And teach the maid
That goodness Time's rude hand de-
fies,—
That virtue lives when beauty dies.]

ON A GIRDLE.

THAT which her slender waist confined
Shall now my joyful temples bind:
It was my heaven's extremest sphere,
The pale which held that lovely dear.
My joy, my grief, my hope, my love,
Did all within this circle move!—
A narrow compass! and yet there
Dwelt all that's good, and all that's fair.
Give me but what this ribbon bound,
Take all the rest the sun goes round.

OLD AGE.

THE seas are quiet when the winds give
o'er;
So calm are we when passions are no
more;
For then we know how vain it was to
boast
Of fleeting things too certain to be lost.
Clouds of affection from our younger eyes
Conceal that emptiness which age de-
scries.

The soul's dark cottage, batter'd and
decay'd,
Lets in new light through chinks that
time has made:
Stronger by weakness wiser men become
As they draw near to their eternal home:
Leaving the old, both worlds at once they
view
That stand upon the threshold of the
new.

[GEORGE HERBERT. 1593—1633.]

VIRTUE.

SWEET day, so cool, so calm, so bright,
The bridal of the earth and sky,
Sweet dews shall weep thy fall to night,
For thou must die.
Sweet rose, whose hue, angry and br
Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye,

Thy root is ever in its grave,
 And thou must die.
 Sweet spring, full of sweet days and
 roses,
 A box where sweets compacted lie,
 My music shows you have your closes,
 And all must die.
 Only a sweet and virtuous soul,
 Like seasoned timber, never gives ;
 But when the whole world turns to coal,
 Then chiefly lives.

[THOMAS CAREW. 1580—1639.]

MEDIOCRITY IN LOVE REJECTED.

GIVE me more love, or more disdain ;
 The torrid or the frozen zone
 Brings equal ease unto my pain ;
 The temperate affords me none :
 Either extreme, of love or hate,
 Is sweeter than a calm estate.

Give me a storm ; if it be love—
 Like Danaë in a golden shower,
 I swim in pleasure ; if it prove
 Disdain, that torrent will devour
 My vulture hopes ; and he's possess'd
 Of heaven, that's but from hell releas'd.
 Then crown my joys, or cure my pain ;
 Give me more love, or more disdain.

ON CELIA SINGING.

You that think love can convey
 No other way
 But through the eyes into the heart
 His fatal dart ;
 Close up their casements, and but hear
 This siren sing,
 And on the wing
 Of her sweet voice it shall appear
 That love can enter at the ear.
 Then unveil your eyes, behold
 The curious mould
 Where that voice dwells ; and as we know
 When the cocks crow
 We freely may
 Gaze on the day,
 So may you, when the music's done,
 Awake and see the rising sun.

HE THAT LOVES A ROSY CHEEK.

HE that loves a rosy cheek,
 Or a coral lip admires,
 Or from star-like eyes doth seek
 Fuel to maintain its fires ;
 As old Time makes these decay,
 So his flames must waste away.

But a smooth and steadfast mind,
 Gentle thoughts and calm desires,
 Hearts with equal love combin'd,
 Kindle never-dying fires ;
 Where these are not, I despise
 Lovely cheeks, or lips, or eyes.

ASK ME NO MORE.

ASK me no more, where Jove bestows,
 When June is past, the fading rose ;
 For in your beauties' orient deep,
 These flowers, as in their causes, sleep.

Ask me no more, whither do stray
 The golden atoms of the day ;
 For, in pure love, heaven did prepare
 Those powders to enrich your hair.

Ask me no more, whither doth haste
 The nightingale, when May is past ;
 For in your sweet dividing throat
 She winters, and keeps warm her note.

Ask me no more, where those stars light,
 That downwards fall in dead of night ;
 For, in your eyes they sit, and there
 Fixed become, as in their sphere.

Ask me no more, if east or west,
 The phoenix builds her spicy nest ;
 For unto you at last she flies,
 And in your fragrant bosom dies.

MURDERING BEAUTY.

I'LL gaze no more on her bewitching face,
 Since ruin harbours there in every place ;
 For my enchanted soul alike she drowns
 With calms and tempests of her smiles
 and frowns.

I'll love no more those cruel eyes of hers,
Which, pleas'd or anger'd, still are murderers :

For if she dart (like lightning) through
the air

Her beams of wrath, she kills me with
despair ;

If she behold me with a pleasing eye,
I surfeit with excess of joy, and die.



A PRAYER TO THE WIND.

Go, thou gentle whispering wind,
Bear this sigh ; and if thou find
Where my cruel fair doth rest,
Cast it in her snowy breast ;
So enflam'd by my desire,
It may set her heart a-fire :
Those sweet kisses thou shalt gain,
Will reward thee for thy pain.
Boldly light upon her lip,
There suck odours, and thence skip
To her bosom ; lastly, fall
Down, and wander over all ;
Range about those ivory hills
From whose every part distils
Amber dew ; there spices grow,
There pure streams of nectar flow :
There perfume thyself, and bring
All those sweets upon thy wing :
As thou return'st change by thy pow'r
Every weed into a flow'r ;
Turn each thistle to a vine,
Make the bramble eglantine ;
For so rich a booty made,
Do but this, and I am paid.
Thou canst with thy pow'rful blast,
Heat apace, and cool as fast :
Thou canst kindle hidden flame,
And again destroy the same :
Then, for pity, either stir
Up the fire of love in her,
That alike both flames may shine,
Or else quite extinguish mine.



UNGRATEFUL BEAUTY.

Know, Celia, since thou art so proud,
T'was I that gave thee thy renown :

Thou hadst, in the forgotten crowd
Of common beauties, liv'd unknown,
Had not my verse exhal'd thy name,
And with it impt the wings of Fame.

That killing power is none of thine,
I gave it to thy voice and eyes :
Thy sweets, thy graces, all are mine ;
Thou art my star, shin'st in my skies ;
Then dart not from thy borrowed sphere
Lightning on him that fix'd thee there.

Tempt me with such affrights no more,
Lest what I made I uncreate :
Let fools thy mystic forms adore,
I'll know thee in thy mortal state.
Wise poets, that wrap truth in tales,
Knew her themselves through all her
veils.



RED AND WHITE ROSES.

READ in these roses the sad story,
Of my hard fate, and your own glory :
In the white you may discover
The paleness of a fainting lover ;
In the red the flames still feeding
On my heart with fresh wounds bleeding.
The white will tell you how I languish,
And the red express my anguish :
The white my innocence displaying,
The red my martyrdom betraying :
The frowns that on your brow resided,
Have those roses thus divided.
Oh ! let your smiles but clear the weather,
And then they both shall grow together.



THE PRIMROSE.

Ask me why I send you here
This firstling of the infant year ;
Ask me why I send to you
This primrose all bepearl'd with dew ;
I straight will whisper in your ears,
The sweets of love are wash'd with tears :
Ask me why this flow'r doth show
So yellow, green, and sickly too ;
Ask me why the stalk is weak,
And bending, yet it doth not break ;
I must tell you, these discover
What doubts and fears are in a lover.

THE PROTESTATION.

No more shall meads be deck'd with
flowers,
Nor sweetness dwell in rosy bowers ;
Nor greenest buds on branches spring,
Nor warbling birds delight to sing ;
Nor April violets paint the grove ;
If I forsake my Celia's love.

The fish shall in the ocean burn,
And fountains sweet shall bitter turn ;
The humble oak no flood shall know
When floods shall highest hills o'erflow ;
Black Lethe shall oblivion leave ;
If e'er my Celia I deceive.

Love shall his bow and shaft lay by,
And Venus' doves want wings to fly ;
The sun refuse to shew his light,
And day shall then be turn'd to night,
And in that night no star appear ;
If once I leave my Celia dear.

Love shall no more inhabit earth,
Nor lovers more shall love for worth ;
Nor joy above in heaven dwell,
Nor pain torment poor souls in hell ;
Grim Death no more shall horrid prove ;
If e'er I leave bright Celia's love.

[RICHARD LOVELACE. 1618—1658]

TO ALTHEA, FROM PRISON.

WHEN love with unconfin'd wings
Hovers within my gates,
And my divine Althea brings
To whisper at my grates ;
When I lie tangled in her hair,
And fetter'd to her eye,
The birds that wanton in the air
Know no such liberty.

When flowing cups run swiftly round,
With no allaying Thames,
Our careless heads with roses bound,
Our hearts with loyal flames ;
When thirsty grief in wine we steep,
When healths and draughts are free,—
Fishes that tinkle in the deep
Know no such liberty.

When linnet-like confin'd, I
With shriller throat shall sing
The sweetness, mercy, majesty,
And glories of my king :
When I shall voice aloud how good
He is, how great should be,—
Enlarg'd winds that curl the flood
Know no such liberty.

Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage ;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for a hermitage :
If I have freedom in my love,
And in my soul am free,—
Angels alone that soar above
Enjoy such liberty.

TO LUCASTA, ON GOING TO
THE WARS.

TELL me not, sweet, I am unkind,—
That from the nunnery
Of thy chaste breast and quiet mind
To war and arms I fly.

True, a new mistress now I chase,
The first foe in the field ;
And with a stronger faith embrace
A sword, a horse, a shield.

Vet this inconstancy is such
As you, too, shall adore ;
I could not love thee, dear, so much,
Loved I not honour more.

[SIR JOHN SUCKLING. 1613—1641.]

I PRITHEE, SEND ME BACK MY
HEART.

I PRITHEE send me back my heart,
Since I cannot have thine ;
For if from yours you will not part,
Why, then, shouldst thou have mine ?

Yet now I think on't, let it lie,
To find it were in vain ;
For thou'st a thief in either eye
Would steal it back again,

Why should two hearts in one breast lie,
And yet not lodge together?
"O Love! where is thy sympathy,
If thus our breasts thou sever?

But love is such a mystery,
I cannot find it out;
For when I think I'm best resolv'd,
Then I am most in doubt.

Then farewell care, and farewell woe;
I will no longer pine;
For I'll believe I have her heart,
As much as she has mine.

* ~~~~~

WHY SO PALE AND WAN?

Why so pale and wan, fond lover?
Prithee, why so pale?
Will, when looking well can't move her,
Looking ill prevail?
Prithee, why so pale?

Who so dull and mute, young sinner?
Prithee, why so mute?
Will, when speaking well can't win her,
Saying nothing do't?
Prithee, why so mute?

Quit, quit, for shame, this will not move,
This cannot take her;
If of herself she will not love,
Nothing can make her.
The devil take her!

TRUE LOVE.

No, no, fair heretic, it needs must be
But an ill love in me,
And worse for thee;
For were it in my power
To love thee now this hour
More than I did the last;
'Twould then so fall,
I might not love at all;
Love that can flow, and can admit
increase,
Admits as well an ebb, and may grow
less.

True love is still the same; the torrid
zones,

And those more frigid ones
It must not know:
For love grown cold or hot,
Is lust, or friendship, not
The thing we have.

For that's a flame would die
Held down, or up too high:
Then think I love more than I can ex-
press,
And would love more, could I but love
thee less.

~~~~~

[SIR CHARLES SEDLEY. 1639—1641.]

#### THE GROWTH OF LOVE.

AH, Chloris! that I now could sit  
As unconcerned, as when  
Your infant beauty could beget  
No pleasure nor no pain.

When I the dawn used to admire,  
And praised the coming day,  
I little thought the growing fire  
Must take my rest away.

Your charms in harmless childhood lay,  
Like metals in the mine:  
Age from no face took more away,  
Than youth concealed in thine.

But as your charms insensibly  
To their perfection pressed,  
Fond love as unperceived did fly,  
And in my bosom rest.

My passion with your beauty grew,  
And Cupid at my heart,  
Still, as his mother favoured you,  
Threw a new flaming dart.

Each gloried in their wanton part:  
To make a lover, he  
Employed the utmost of his art—  
To make a beauty she.

Though now I slowly bend to love,  
Uncertain of my fate,  
If your fair self my chains approve,  
I shall my freedom hate.

Lovers, like dying men, may well  
 At first disordered be ;  
 Since none alive can truly tell  
 What fortune they must see.

[RICHARD CRASHAW. 1616—1648.]

### EUTHANASIA ; OR, THE HAPPY DEATH.

WOULD'ST see blithe looks, fresh cheeks  
 beguile

Age ? would'st see December smile ?

Would'st see hosts of new roses grow

In a bed of reverend snow ?

Warm thoughts, free spirits, flattering

Winter's self into a spring ?

In some would'st see a man that can

Live to be old, and still a man ?

Whose latest and most leaden hours,  
 Fall with soft wings stuck with soft

flowers ;

And when life's sweet fable ends,

Soul and body part like friends ;

No-quarrels, murmurs, no delay —

A kiss, a sigh, and so — away ; —

This rare one reader, would'st thou see ?

Hark hither ! — and thyself be he.

### EPITAPH.

To these, whom death again did wed,  
 This grave's their second marriage-bed.

For though the hand of Fate could force,

'Twixt soul and body a divorce,

It could not sunder man and wife,

'Cause they both lived but one life.

Peace, good reader, do not weep ;

Peace, the lovers are asleep ;

They (sweet turtles) folded lie,

In the last knot love could tie.

And though they lie as they were dead,

Their pillow stone, their sheets of lead ;

(Pillow hard, and sheets not warm)

Love made the bed, they'll take no harm.

Let them sleep, let them sleep on,

Till this stormy night be gone,

And th' eternal morrow dawn ;

Then the curtains will be drawn,

And they wake into that light

Whose day shall never die in night.

### O ! THOU UNDAUNTED.

O ! THOU undaunted daughter of desires,

By all thy dower of lights and fires ;

By all the eagle in thee, all the dove ;

By all thy lives and deaths of love ;

By thy large draughts of intellectual day ;

And by thy thirsts of love, more large  
 than they ;

By all thy brim-fill'd bowls of fierce desire ;

By thy last morning's draught of liquid  
 fire ;

By the full kingdom of that final kiss,

That seal'd thy parting soul, and made  
 thee his ;

By all the heavens thou hast in him,

Fair sister of the seraphim ;

By all of him we have in thee,

Leave nothing of myself in me ;

Let me so read thy life, that I

Unto all life of mine may die.

### THE TEAR.

WHAT bright soft thing is this,

Sweet Mary, thy fair eyes expense ?

A moist spark it is.

A wat'ry diamond ; from whence

The very term I think was found,

The water of a diamond.

O 'tis not a tear,

'Tis a star about to drop

From thine eye its sphere,

The sun will stoop and take it up,

Proud will his sister be to wear

This thine eye's jewel in her ear.

O 'tis a tear,

Too true a tear ; for no sad een

How sad soe'er

Rain so tear as thine ;

Each drop leaving a place so dear,

Weeps for itself, as its own tear.

Such a pearl as this is

(Slit from Aurora's dewy breast)

The rose bud's sweet lip kisses ;

And such the rose itself when vex'd

With ungentle flames, does shed,

Sweating in too warm a bed.

Such the maiden ~~gen~~,  
By the wanton spring put on,  
Peeps from her parent stem,  
And blushes on the wat'ry sun ;  
This wat'ry blossom of thy een,  
Ripe will make the richer wine.

Fair drop, why quak'st thou so ?  
'Cause thou straight must lay thy head  
In the dust ? O no,  
The dust shall never be thy bed ;  
A pillow for thee will I bring,  
Stuff'd with down of angel's wing :

Thus carried up on high,  
(For to heaven thou must go)  
Sweetly shalt thou lie,  
And in soft slumbers bathe thy woe,  
Till the singing orbs awake thee,  
And one of their bright chorus make thee.

There thyself shalt be  
An eye, but not a weeping one,  
Yet I doubt of thee,  
Whether th' hadst rather there have  
shone,  
An eye of heaven ; or still shine here,  
In th' heaven of Mary's eye a tear.

[THOMAS STANLEY. 1664—1698.]

#### THE DEPOSITION.

THOUGH when I lov'd thee thou wert  
fair,  
Thou art no longer so :  
Those glories, all the pride they wear  
Unto opinion owe.  
Beauties, like stars, in borrow'd lustre  
shine,  
And 't was my love that gave thee thine.

The flames that dwelt within thine eye  
Do now with mine expire ;  
Thy brightest graces fade and die  
At once with my desire.  
Love's fires thus mutual influence return ;  
Thine cease to shine when mine to burn.

Then, proud Celinda, hope no more  
To be implor'd or woo'd ;

Since by thy scorn thou dost restore  
The wealth my love bestow'd ;  
And thy despis'd disdain too late shall  
find  
That none are fair but who are kind.

[ROBERT HERRICK. 1591—1674.]

#### TO DAFFODILS.

FAIR daffodils, we weep to see  
You haste away so soon ;  
As yet the early rising sun  
Has not attained his noon.  
Stay, stay,  
Until the hasting day  
Has run  
But to the even-song !  
And, having prayed together, we  
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay as you,  
We have as short a spring,  
As quick a breath to meet decay,  
As you, or any thing.  
We die  
As your hours do, and dry  
Away,  
Like to the summer's rain,  
Or as the pearls of morning dew,  
Ne'er to be found again.

#### TO BLOSSOMS.

FAIR pledges of a fruitful tree,  
Why do ye fall so fast ?  
Your date is not so past,  
But you may stay yet here awhile  
To blush and gently smile,  
And go at last.

What, were ye born to be,  
An hour or half's delight,  
And so to bid good-night ?  
'Twas pity Nature brought ye forth,  
Merely to show your worth  
And lose you quite.

But you are lovely leaves, where we  
May read, how soon things have  
Their end, though ne'er so brave :

And after they have shown their pride,  
Like you, awhile, they glide  
Into the grave.

### NIGHT-PIECE TO JULIA.

HER eyes the glow-worm lend thee,  
The shooting stars attend thee ;  
And the elves also,  
Whose little eyes glow  
Like the sparks of fire, befriend thee !

No Will-o'-the-wisp mislight thee,  
Nor snake or slow-worm bite thee !  
But on, on thy way,  
Not making a stay, [thee.  
Since ghost there is none to affright

Let not the dark thee cumber ;  
What though the moon does slumber ?  
The stars of the night  
Will lend thee their light,  
Like tapers clear without number.

Then Julia let me woo thee,  
Thus, thus to come unto me ;  
And, when I shall meet  
Thy silvery feet,  
My soul I'll pour into thee.

### THE MAD MAID'S SONG.

GOOD-MORROW to the day so fair,  
Good-morrow, sir, to you ;  
Good-morrow to my own tawn hair,  
Bedabbled all with dew.

Good-morrow to this primrose too ;  
Good-morrow to each maid  
That will with flowers the tomb bestrew  
Wherein my love is laid.

Ah, woe is me ; woe, woe is me ;  
Alack and well-a-day !  
For pity, sir, find out that bee  
Which bore my love away.

I'll seek him in your bonnet brave ;  
I'll seek him in your eyes ;  
Nay, now I think they've made his grave  
In the bed of strawberries.

I'll seek him there, I know ere this  
The cold, cold earth doth shake him ;  
But I will go, or send a kiss  
By you, sir, to awake him.

Pray hurt him not ; though he be dead,  
He knows well who do love him,  
And who with green turfs rear his head,  
And who so rudely move him.

He's soft and tender, pray take heed ;  
With bands of cowslips bind him,  
And bring him home ; but 't is decreed  
That I shall never find him.

[NICHOLAS BRETON. 1555—1624.]

### PHILLIDA AND CORYDON.

IN the merry month of May,  
In a morn by break of day,  
With a troop of damsels playing  
Forth I went forsooth a maying.

When anon by a wood side,  
Where, as May was in his pride,  
I espied, all alone,  
Phillida and Corydon.

Much ado there was, God wot !  
He would love, and she would not,  
She said, never man was true :  
He says none was false to you ;

He said he had lov'd her long ;  
She says love should have no wrong,  
Corydon would kiss her then ;  
She says, maids must kiss no men,

Till they do for good and all,  
When she made the shepherd call  
All the heavens to witness truth,  
Never lov'd a truer youth.

Then with many a pretty oath,  
Yea and nay, faith and troth.  
Such as silly shepherds use,  
When they will not love abuse ;

Love, which had been long deluded,  
Was, with kisses sweet concluded ;  
And Phillida with garlands gay  
Was made the lady of May.

[MARQUIS OF MONTRÉSE. 1614—1650.]

## I'LL NEVER LOVE THEE MORE.

MY dear and only love, I pray  
That little world of thee  
Be govern'd by no other sway  
But purest monarchy:  
For if confusion have a part,  
Which virtuous souls abhor,  
I'll call a synod in my heart,  
And never love thee more.

As Alexander I will reign,  
And I will reign alone;  
My thoughts did evermore disdain  
A rival on my throne.  
He either fears his fate too much,  
Or his deserts are small,  
Who dares not put it to the touch,  
To gain or lose it all.

But I will reign and govern still,  
And always give the law,  
And have each subject at my will,  
And all to stand in awe:  
But 'gainst my batteries if I find  
Thou storm or vex me sore,  
As if thou set me as a blind,  
I'll never love thee more.

And in the empire of thy heart,  
Where I should solely be,  
If others do pretend a part,  
Or dare to share with me:  
Or committees if thou erect,  
Or go on such a score,  
I'll smiling mock at thy neglect,  
And never love thee more.

But if no faithless action stain  
Thy love and constant word,  
I'll make thee famous by my pen,  
And glorious by my sword.  
I'll serve thee in such noble ways  
As ne'er was known before;  
I'll deck and crown thy head with bays,  
And love thee more and more.

[RICHARD ALLISON. 1606.]

THERE IS A GARDEN IN HER  
FACE.

THERE is a garden in her face,  
Where roses and white lilies grow;

A heavenly paradise is that place,  
Wherein all pleasant fruits do grow;  
There cherries grow that none may buy  
Till cherry ripe themselves do cry.

Those cherries fairly do enclose  
Of orient pearl a double row,  
Which, when her lovely laughter shows,  
They look like rosebuds fill'd with  
snow;  
Yet them no peer nor prince may buy  
Till cherry ripe themselves do cry.

Her eyes like angels watch them still,  
Her brows like bended bows do stand,  
Threatening with piercing frowns to kill  
All that approach with eye or hand  
These sacred cherries to come nigh,  
Till cherry ripe themselves do cry.

[SIMON WASTELL. 1623.]

## MAN'S MORTALITY.

*The Microbiblia.*

LIKE as the damask rose you see,  
Or like the blossom on the tree,  
Or like the dainty flower in May,  
Or like the morning of the day,  
Or like the sun, or like the shade,  
Or like the gourd which Jonas had.  
E'en such is man; whose thread is spun,  
Drawn out, and cut, and so is done.  
The rose withers, the blossom blasteth;  
The flower fades, the morning hasteth;  
The sun sets, the shadow flies;  
The gourd consumes,—and man he dies!

Like to the grass that's newly sprung,  
Or like a tale that's new begun,  
Or like the bird that's here to day,  
Or like the pearly dew of May,  
Or like an hour, or like a span,  
Or like the singing of a swan.  
E'en such is man; who lives by breath,  
Is here, now there, in life and death.  
The grass withers, the tale is ended;  
The bird is flown, the dew's ascended;  
The hour is short, the span is long;  
The swan's near death,—man's life is  
done!



[THOMAS DUFFEY. Died 1723.]

## STILL WATER.

DAMON, let a friend advise ye,  
Follow Clores though she flies ye,  
Though her tongue your suit is slighting,  
Her kind eyes you'll find inviting :  
Women's rage, like shallow water,  
Does but show their hurtless nature ;  
When the stream seems rough and  
frowning,  
There is still least fear of drowning.

Let me tell the adventurous stranger,  
In our calmness lies our danger ;  
Like a river's silent running,  
Stillness shows our depth and cunning :  
She that rails ye into trembling,  
Only shows her fine dissembling ;  
But the fawner to abuse ye,  
Thinks ye fools, and so will use ye.

[JOHN MILTON. 1608—1664.]

## THE INVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION.

*Paradise Lost.*

OF man's first disobedience, and the fruit  
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought death into the world, and all our  
woe,  
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,  
Sing, heavenly Muse, that on the secret  
top  
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire  
That shepherd, who first taught the  
chosen seed,  
In the beginning, how the Heavens and  
Earth  
Rose out of Chaos : or, if Sion hill  
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that  
flow'd  
Fast by the oracle of God ; I thence  
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,  
That with no middle flight intends to soar  
Above the Aonian mount, while it pur-  
sues  
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.

And chiefly thou, O Spirit, that dost  
prefer  
Before all temples the upright heart and  
pure,  
Instruct me, for thou know'st ; thou from  
the first  
Wast present, and, with mighty wings  
out-spread,  
Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast  
abyss  
And mad'st it pregnant : what in me is  
dark  
Illumine ; what is low raise and support ;  
That to the height of this great argument  
I may assert eternal Providence,  
And justify the ways of God to man.  
Say first, for Heaven hides nothing  
from thy view,  
Nor the deep tract of Hell ; say first,  
what cause  
Moved our grand parents, in that happy  
state,  
Favour'd of Heaven so highly, to fall off  
From their Creator, and transgress his  
will  
For one restraint, lords of the world be-  
sides ?  
Who first seduced them to that foul re-  
volt ?  
The infernal serpent ; he it was, whose  
guile,  
Stirr'd up with envy and revenge, deceived  
The mother of mankind, what time his  
pride  
Had cast him out from Heaven, with all  
his host  
Of rebel angels ; by whose aid, aspiring  
To set himself in glory above his peers,  
He trusted to have equalled the Most  
High,  
If he opposed ; and, with ambitious aim  
Against the throne and monarchy of God,  
Raised impious war in Heaven, and battle  
proud,  
With vain attempt. Him the Almighty  
power  
Hurl'd headlong flaming from the ethe-  
real sky,  
With hideous ruin and combustion, down  
To bottomless perdition ; there to dwell  
In adamant chains and penal fire,  
Who durst defy the Omnipotent to  
arms.

# THE FALLEN ANGELS IN THE BURNING LAKE.

THE superior fiend

Was moving toward the shore : his ponderous shield,

Ethereal temper, massy, large and round,  
Behind him cast ; the broad circumference  
Hung on his shoulder, like the moon,  
whose orb

Through optic glass the Tuscan artist  
views

At evening from the top of Fesolè,  
Or in Valdarno, to descry new lands,  
Rivers, or mountains, in her spotty globe.  
His spear, to equal which the tallest pine  
Hewn on Norwegian hills, to be the mast  
Of some great ammiral, were but a wand,  
He walk'd with, to support uneasy steps  
Over the burning marle, not like those  
steps

On Heaven's azure ; and the torrid clime  
Smote on him sore besides, vaulted with  
fire :

Nathless he so endured till on the beach  
Of that inflaméd sea he stood, and call'd  
His legions, angel forms, who lay in-  
tranced,

Thick as autumnal leaves that strew the  
brooks

In Vallombrosa, where the Etrurian  
shades,

High over-arch'd, imbower ; or scatter'd  
sedge

Afloat, when with fierce winds Orion  
arm'd

Hath vex'd the Red-Sea coast, whose  
waves o'erthrew

Busiris and his Memphian chivalry,  
While with perfidious hatred they pur-  
sued

The sojourners of Goshen, who beheld  
From the safe shore their floating carcasses  
And broken chariot wheels : so thick be-  
strewn,

Abject and lost lay these, covering the  
flood,

Under amazement of their hideous change.  
He call'd so loud, that all the hollow deep  
Of Hell resounded. " Princes, potentates,  
Warriors, the flower of Heaven, once  
yours, now lost,

If such astonishment as this can seize

Eternal spirits ; or have ye chosen this  
place,

After the toil of battle to repose  
Your wearied virtue, for the ease you find  
To slumber here, as in the vales of  
Heaven ?

Or in this abject posture have ye sworn  
T' adore the Conqueror ? who now be-  
holds

Cherub and seraph rolling in the flood  
With scatter'd arms and ensigns, till anon  
His swift pursuers, from Heaven-gates,  
discern

Th' advantage, and, descending, tread us  
down

Thus drooping, or with linkéd thunder-  
bolts

Transfix us to the bottom of this gulf.  
Awake, arise, or be for ever fallen ! "



# SATAN PRESIDING IN THE IN- FERNAL COUNCIL.

HIGH on a throne of royal state which far  
Outshone the wealth of Ormus and of  
Ind,

Or where the gorgeous East with richest  
hand

Showers on her kings barbaric pearl and  
gold,

Satan exalted sat, by merit raised  
To that bad eminence : and, from despair

Thus high uplifted beyond hope, aspires  
Beyond thus high, insatiate to pursue

Vain war with Heaven, and, by success  
untaught,

His proud imaginations thus display'd :  
" Powers and dominions, deities of  
Heaven ;

For since no deep within her gulf can  
hold

Immortal vigour, though oppress'd and  
fall'n,

I give not Heaven for lost. From this  
descent

Celestial virtues rising, will appear  
More glorious and more dread than from  
no fall,

And trust themselves to fear no second  
fate.

Me though just right, and the fix'd laws  
of Heaven,

Did first create your leader ; next, free  
 choice,  
 With what besides in counsel or in fight  
 Hath been achieved of merit ; yet this  
 loss  
 Thus far at least recover'd, hath much  
 more  
 Establish'd in a safe unenvied throne,  
 Yielded with full consent. The happier  
 state  
 In Heaven, which follows dignity, might  
 draw  
 Envy from each inferior ; but who here  
 'Will envy whom the highest place exposes  
 Foremost to stand against the Thunderer's  
 aim,  
 Your bulwark, and condemns to greatest  
 share  
 Of endless pain ? Where there is then no  
 good  
 For which to strive, no strife can grow up  
 there  
 From faction ; for none sure will claim in  
 Hell  
 Precedence ; none whose portion is so  
 small  
 Of present pain, that with ambitious mind  
 Will covet more. With this advantage  
 then  
 To union, and firm faith, and firm accord,  
 More than can be in heaven, we now  
 return  
 To claim our just inheritance of old,  
 Surer to prosper than prosperity  
 Could have assur'd us ; and, by what best  
 way,  
 Whether of open war, or covert guile,  
 We now debate : who can advise may  
 speak."

~~~~~

ADDRESS TO LIGHT.

HAIL, holy Light, offspring of Heaven,
 first-born,
 Or of the Eternal coeternal beam,
 May I express thee unblamed ? since God
 is light,
 And never but in unapproach'd light
 Dwelt from eternity, dwelt then in thee,
 Bright effluence of bright essence increate.
 Or hear'st thou rather, pure ethereal
 stream,

Whose fountain who shall tell ? Before
 the Sun,
 Before the Heavens thou wert, and at the
 voice
 Of God, as with a mantle, didst invest
 The rising world of waters dark and deep,
 Won from the void and formless infinite.
 Thee I revisit now with a bolder wing,
 Escaped the Stygian pool, though long
 detain'd
 In that obscure sojourn, while, in my
 flight,
 Through utter and through middle dark-
 ness borne,
 With other notes than to the Orphéan lyre,
 I sung of Chaos and eternal Night ;
 Taught by the heavenly Muse to venture
 down
 The dark descent, and up to re-ascend,
 Though hard and rare : thee I revisit safe,
 And feel thy sovran vital lamp : but thou
 Revisit'st not these eyes, that roll in vain
 To find thy piercing ray, and find no dawn ;
 So thick a drop serene hath quench'd their
 orbs,
 Or dim suffusion veil'd. Yet not the more
 Cease I to wander, where the Muses haunt
 Clear spring, or shady grove, or sunny hill,
 Smit with the love of sacred song ; but
 chief
 Thee, Sion, and the flowery brooks be-
 neath,
 That wash thy hallowed feet, and warbling
 flow,
 Nightly I visit : nor sometimes forget
 Those other two, equall'd with me in fate
 So were I equall'd with them in renown,
 Blind Thamyras, and blind Mæonides,
 And Tiresias, and Phineus, prophets old :
 Then feed on thoughts, that voluntary
 move
 Harmonious numbers ; as the wakeful bird
 Sings dawning, and in shadiest covert
 hid,
 Tunes her nocturnal note. Thus with the
 year
 Seasons return ; but not to me returns
 Day, or the sweet approach of even or
 morn,
 Or sight of vernal bloom, or summer's
 rose,
 Or flocks or herds, or human face divine ;
 But cloud, instead, and ever-during dark

Surrounds me, from the cheerful ways of
men

Cut off, and for the book of knowledge fair
Presented with a universal blank

Of Nature's works, to me expunged and
erased,

And wisdom at one entrance quite shut
out.

So much the rather thou, celestial Light,
Shine inward, and the mind through all
her powers

Irradiate : there plant eyes, all mist from
thence

Purge and disperse, that I may see and
tell

Of things invisible to mortal sight.

THE ANGELIC WORSHIP.

No sooner had the Almighty ceased, but
all

The multitude of angels, with a shout
Loud as from numbers without number,
sweet

As from blest voices, uttering joy, Heaven
rung

With jubilee, and loud Hosannas fill'd
The eternal regions : lowly reverent

Towards either throne they bow, and to
the ground

With solemn adoration down they cast
Their crowns inwove with amaranth and

gold ;
Immortal amaranth, a flower which once

In Paradise, fast by the tree of life,
Began to bloom ; but soon for man's

offence
To Heaven removed where first it grew,

there grows,
And flowers aloft shading the fount of

life,
And where the river of bliss through midst

of Heaven
Rolls o'er Elysian flowers her amber

stream :
With these that never fade the spirits elect

Bind their resplendent locks inwreathed
with beams ;

Now in loose garlands thick thrown off,
the bright

Pavement, that like a sea of jasper shone,
Impurpled with celestial roses smiled.

Then, crown'd again, their golden harps
they took,

Harps ever tuned, that glittering by their
side

Like quivers hung, and with preamble
sweet

Of charming symphony they introduce
Their sacred song, and waken raptures

high ;
No voice exempt, no voice but well could

join
Melodious part, such concord is in Heaven.

SATAN'S SOLILOQUY IN SIGHT OF PARADISE.

O THOU, that, with surpassing glory
crown'd,

Look'st from thy sole dominion like the
God

Of this new world ; at whose sight all the
stars

Hide their diminish'd heads ; to thee I
call,

But with no friendly voice, and add thy
name,

O Sun ! to tell thee how I hate thy beams,
That bring to my remembrance from what

state
I fell ; how glorious once above thy sphere,

Till pride and worse ambition threw me
down

Warring in Heaven against Heaven's
matchless king :

Ah, wherefore ! he deserved no such
return

From me, whom he created what I was
In that bright eminence, and with his good

Upbraided none ; nor was his service hard.
What could be less than to afford him

praise,
The easiest recompense, and pay him

thanks,
How due ! yet all his good proved ill in

me,
And wrought but malice ; lifted up so high

I 'dained subjection, and thought one step
higher

Would set me highest, and in a moment
quit

The debt immense of endless gratitude,

So burthensome still paying, still to owe ;
Forgetful what from him I still received,
And understood not that a grateful mind
By owing owes not, but still pays, at once
Indebted and discharged ; what burden
then ?

O, had his powerful destiny ordain'd
Me some inferior angel, I had stood
Then happy ; no unbounded hope had
raised

Ambition ! Yet why not ? some other
power

As great might have aspired, and me,
though mean,
Drawn to his part ; but other powers as
great

Fell not, but stand unshaken, from within
Or from without, to all temptations arm'd.
Hadst thou the same free will and power
to stand ?

Thou hadst : whom hast thou then or
what to accuse,

But Heaven's free love dealt equally to
all ?

Be then his love accursed, since, love or
hate,

To me alike, it deals eternal woe.

Nay, cursed be thou ; since against his thy
will

Chose freely what it now so justly rues.

Me miserable ! which way shall I fly

Infinite wrath and infinite despair ?

Which way I fly is Hell ; myself am Hell ;

And, in the lowest deep, a lower deep,

Still threatening to devour me, opens wide,

To which the Hell I suffer seems a
Heaven.

O, then, at last relent : is there no place

Left for repentance, none for pardon left ?

None left but by submission ; and that
word

Disdain forbids me, and my dread of
shame

Among the spirits beneath, whom I
seduced

With other promises and other vaunts

Than to submit, boasting I could subdue

The Omnipotent. Ay me ! they little know

How dearly I abide that boast so vain.

Under what torments inwardly I groan,

While they adore me on the throne of
Hell.

With diadem and sceptre high advanced,

The lower still I fall, only supreme
In misery : such joy ambition finds.
But say I could repent, and could obtain,
By act of grace, my former state ; how
soon

Would height recal high thoughts, how
soon unsay

What feign'd submission swore ? Ease
would recant

Vows made in pain, as violent and void.
For never can true reconciliation grow,

Where wounds of deadly hate have pierced
so deep ;

Which would but lead me to a worse
relapse

And heavier fall : so should I purchase
dear

Short intermission bought with double
smart.

This knows my Punisher ; therefore as far
From granting he, as I from begging
peace :

All hope excluded thus, behold, instead
Of us outcast, exiled, his new delight,

Mankind, created, and for him this world.

So farewell hope ; and with hope, farewell
fear ;

Farewell remorse ! all good to me is lost ;
Evil, be thou my good ; by thee at least

Divided empire with Heaven's King I
hold,

By thee, and more than half perhaps will
reign ;

As man ere long, and this new world,
shall know.

PARADISE.

So on he fares, and to the border comes,
Of Eden, where delicious Paradise,

Now nearer, crowns with her enclosure
green,

As with a rural mound, the champain
head

Of a steep wilderness, whose hairy sides
With thicket overgrown, grotesque and

wild,
Access denied : and overhead upgrew

Insuperable height of loftiest shade,
Cedar, and pine, and fir, and branching

palm,
A sylvan scene ; and, as the ranks ascend

Shade above shade, a woody theatre
Of stateliest view. Yet higher than their
tops

The verdurous wall of Paradise up sprung :
Which to our general sire gave prospect
large

Into his nether empire neighbouring
round.

And higher than that wall a circling row
Of goodliest trees, loaden with fairest
fruit,

Blossoms and fruits at once, of golden
hue,

Appear'd, with gay enamell'd colours
mix'd :

On which the Sun more glad impress'd
his beams

Than in fair evening cloud, or humid
bow,

When God hath shower'd the earth ; so
lovely seem'd

That landscape : and of pure, now purer
air

Meets his approach, and to the heart
inspires

Vernal delight and joy, able to drive
All sadness but despair : now gentle gales,

Fanning their odoniferous wings, dispense
Native perfumes, and whisper whence
they stole

Those balmy spoils. As when, to them
who sail

Beyond the Cape of Hope, and now are
past

Mozambic, off at sea north-east winds
blow

Sabeian odours from the spicy shore
Of Araby the blest ; with such delay

Well pleased, they slack their course, and
many a league,

Cheer'd with the grateful smell, old Ocean
smiles.

EVE'S RECOLLECTIONS.

THAT day I oft remember, when from
sleep

I first awaked, and found myself reposed
Under a shade on flowers, much wonder-
ing where

And what I was, whence thither brought,
and how.

Not distant far from thence, a murmuring
sound

Of waters issued from a cave, and read
Into a liquid plain, then stood unmoved,
Pure as the expanse of Heaven ; I thither
went

With unexperienced thought, and laid me
down

On the green bank, to look into the clear
Smooth lake, that to me seem'd another
sky.

As I bent down to look, just opposite,
A shape within the watery gleam ap-
pear'd,

Bending to look on me : I started back,
It started back ; but pleased I soon re-
turn'd,

Pleased it return'd as soon with answering
looks

Of sympathy and love.

EVENING IN PARADISE.

Now came still Evening on, and Twilight
gray

Had in her sober livery all things clad ;
Silence accompanied ; for beast and bird,
They to their grassy couch, these to their
nests,

Were slunk, all but the wakeful nightin-
gale ;

She all night long her amorous descant
sung ;

Silence was pleased : now glow'd the fir-
mament

With living sapphires : Hesperus, that led
The starry host, rode brightest, till the
Moon,

Rising in clouded majesty, at length
Apparent queen, unveil'd her peerless
light,

And o'er the dark her silver mantle
threw.

EVE'S CONJUGAL LOVE.

My author and disposer, what thou
bid'st,

Unargued I obey : so God ordains ;
God is thy law, thou mine : to know
no more

*Is woman's happiest knowledge, and her
praise.*

*With thee conversing I forget all time ;
All seasons and their change, all please
alike.*

*Sweet in the breath of Morn, her rising
sweet,*

*With charms of earliest birds : pleasant
the Sun,*

*When first on this delightful land he
spreads*

*His orient beams, on herb, tree, fruit,
and flower,*

*Glistening with dew ; fragrant the fertile
Earth*

*After soft showers ; and sweet the com-
ing on*

*Of grateful Evening mild ; then silent
Night,*

*With this her solemn bird, and this fair
Moon,*

*And these the gems of Heaven, her starry
train :*

*But neither breath of Morn, when she
ascends*

*With charm of earliest birds ; nor rising
Sun*

*On this delightful land ; nor herb, fruit,
flower,*

*Glistening with dew ; nor fragrance after
showers ;*

*Nor grateful Evening mild ; nor silent
Night,*

*With this her solemn bird ; nor walk by
moon,*

*Or glittering star-light, without thee, is
sweet.*

ADAM AND EVE'S MORNING HYMN.

*THESE are thy glorious works, Parent of
good,*

*Almighty ! Thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair : Thyself how won-
drous then !*

*Unspeakable, who sit'st above these
heavens*

To us invisible, or dimly seen

*In these thy lowest works ; yet these
declare*

*Thy goodness beyond thought, and power
divine.*

*Speak, ye who must can tell, ye sons of
light,*

*Angels ; for ye behold him, and with
songs*

*And choral symphonies, day without-
night,*

Circle his throne rejoicing ; ye, in Heaven :

*On Earth join all ye creatures to extol
Him first, him last, him midst, and with-*

out end.

*Fairest of stars, last in the train of night,
If better thou belong not to the dawn,*

*Sure pledge of day, that crown'st the
smiling morn*

*With thy bright circlet, praise him in thy
sphere,*

*While day arises, that sweet hour of
prime.*

*Thou Sun, of this great world both eye
and soul,*

*Acknowledge him thy greater ; sound his
praise*

*In thy eternal course, both when thou
climb'st,*

*And when high noon hast gain'd, and
when thou fall'st.*

*Moon, that now meet'st the orient Sun,
now fly'st,*

*With the fix'd stars, fix'd in their orb
that flies ;*

*And ye five other wandering fires, that
move*

*In mystic dance not without song, re-
sound*

*His praise, who out of darkness call'd up
light.*

*Air, and ye elements, the eldest birth
Of Nature's womb, that in quaternions
run*

*Perpetual circle, multiform ; and mix
And nourish all things ; let your ceaseless
change*

Vary to our great Maker still new praise.

*Ye mists and exhalations, that now rise
From hill or steaming lake, dusky, or
gray,*

*Till the Sun paint your fleecy skirts with
gold, [rise ;*

In honour to the world's great Author

*Whether to deck with clouds the un-
colour'd sky,*

*Or wet the thirsty Earth with falling
showers,*

Rising or falling still advance his praise.
His praise, ye winds, that from four quarters blow, •

Breathe soft or loud; and wave your tops,
ye pines,

* With every plant, in sign of worship wave.

Fountains, and ye that warble as ye flow,
Melodious murmurs, warbling tune his praise.

Join voices, all ye living souls : ye birds,
That singing up to Heaven-gate ascend,
Bear on your wings and in your notes his praise.

Ye that in waters glide, and ye that walk
The earth, and stately tread, or lowly creep ;

Witness if I be silent, morn or even,
To hill, or valley, fountain, or fresh shade,

Made vocal by my song, and taught his praise.

Hail, universal Lord, be bounteous still
To give us only good ; and if the night
Have gather'd aught of evil or conceal'd,
Disperse it, as now light dispels the dark !

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### SATAN, IN HIS EXPEDITION TO THE UPPER WORLD, MEETS SIN AND DEATH.

MEANWHILE, the adversary of God and man,

Satan, with thoughts inflamed of highest design,

Puts on swift wings, and towards the gates of Hell

Explores his solitary flight : sometimes  
He scours the right hand coast, sometimes the left ;

Now shaves with level wing the deep,  
then soars

Up to the fiery concave towering high.  
As, when far off at sea, a fleet descried  
Hangs in the clouds, by equinoctial winds

Close sailing from Bengala, or the isles  
Of Ternate and Tidore, whence merchants bring

Their spicy drugs ; they, on the trading flood,

Through the wide Ethiopian to the Cape,  
Ply stemming nightly toward the pole :  
so seem'd

Far off the flying fiend. At last appear  
Hell bounds, high reaching to the horrid roof,

And thrice threefold the gates ; three folds were brass,

Three iron, three of adamantine rock  
Impenetrable, impaled with circling fire,  
Yet unconsumed. Before the gates there sat

On either side a formidable shape ;  
The one seem'd woman to the waist and fair ;

But ended foul in many a scaly fold  
Voluminous and vast ; a serpent arm'd  
With mortal sting : About her middle round

A cry of Hell-hounds, never ceasing,  
bark'd

With wide Cerberian mouths full loud,  
and rung

A hideous peal ; yet, when they list,  
would creep,

If aught disturb'd their noise, into her womb,

And kennel there ; yet there still bark'd  
and howl'd,

Within unseem'd. Far less abhor'd than these

Vex'd Scylla, bathing in the sea that parts

Calabria from the hoarse Trinacrian shore ;

Nor uglier follow the night-hag, when,  
call'd

In secret, riding through the air she comes,

Lured with the smell of infant blood, to dance

With Lapland witches, while the labouring Moon

Eclipses at their charms. The other shape,

If shape it might be call'd that shape had none

Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb ;  
Or substance might be call'd that shadow seem'd,

For each seem'd either : black it stood as night,

Fierce as ten furies, terrible as Hell,



And shook a dreadful dart; what seem'd  
 his head  
 The likeness of a kingly crown had on.  
 Satan was now at hand, and from his  
 seat  
 The monster moving onward came as  
 fast  
 With horrid strides; Hell trembled as he  
 strode.  
 The undaunted fiend what this might be  
 admired,  
 Admired, not feared; God and his son  
 except,  
 Created thing naught valued he, nor  
 shunn'd;  
 And with disdainful look thus first began:  
 "Whence and what art thou, execrable  
 shape,  
 That darest, though grim and terrible,  
 advance  
 Thy miscreated front athwart my way  
 To yonder gates? through them I mean  
 to pass,  
 That be assured, without leave ask'd of  
 thee:  
 Retire, or taste thy folly, and learn by  
 proof  
 Hell-born, not to contend with spirits of  
 Heaven."  
 To whom the goblin full of wrath re-  
 plied:  
 "Art thou that traitor-angel, art thou he,  
 Who first broke peace in Heaven, and  
 faith, till then  
 Unbroken; and in proud rebellious arms  
 Drew after him the third part of Heaven's  
 sons  
 Conjured against the Highest; for which  
 both thou  
 And they, outcast from God, are here  
 condemn'd  
 To waste eternal days in woe and pain?  
 And reckon'st thou thyself with spirits of  
 Heaven,  
 Hell-doom'd, and breathest defiance here  
 and scorn,  
 Where I reign king, and, to enrage thee  
 more,  
 Thy king and lord? Back to thy punish-  
 ment,  
 False fugitive! and to thy speed add  
 wings,  
 Lest with a whip of scorpions I pursue

Thy lingering, or with one stroke of this  
 dart  
 Strange horror seize thee, and pangs un-  
 felt before."  
 So spake the grisly Terror, and in  
 shape,  
 So speaking and so threatening, grew  
 tenfold  
 More dreadful and deform. On the  
 other side,  
 Incensed with indignation, Satan stood  
 Unterrified, and like a comet burn'd,  
 That fires the length of Ophiuchus huge  
 In the arctic sky, and from his horrid  
 hair  
 Shakes pestilence and war. Each at the  
 head  
 Levell'd his deadly aim; their fatal hands  
 No second stroke intend; and such a  
 frown  
 Each cast at the other, as when two black  
 clouds,  
 With Heaven's artillery fraught, come  
 rattling on  
 Over the Caspian, then stand front to  
 front,  
 Hovering a space, till winds the signal  
 blow  
 To join their dark encounter in mid air:  
 So frown'd the mighty combatants, that  
 Hell  
 Grew darker at their frown; so match'd  
 they stood;  
 For never but once more was either like  
 To meet so great a foe: and now great  
 deeds  
 Had been achieved, whereof all Hell had  
 rung,  
 Had not the snaky sorceress that sat  
 Fast by Hell-gate, and kept the fatal key,  
 Risen, and with hideous outcry rush'd  
 between.

\* \* \* \* \*  
 From her side the fatal key,  
 Sad instrument of all our woe, she took;  
 And, towards the gate rolling her bestial  
 train,  
 Forthwith the huge portcullis high up  
 drew,  
 Which but herself, not all the Stygian  
 powers  
 Could once have moved; then in the key-  
 hole turns





L'ALLEGRO (MILTON).

Haste thee, Nymph, and bring with thee  
Jest and youthful Jollity.—P. 99

The intricate wards, and every bolt and bar

Of massy iron or solid rock with ease

Unfastens. On a sudden open fly,

With impetuous recoil and jarring sound,

The infernal doors, and on their hinges grate

Harsh thunder, that the lowest bottom shook

Of Erebus. She open'd, but to shut

Excell'd her power; the gates wide open stood,

That with extended wings a banner'd host,

Under spread ensigns marching, might pass through

With horse and chariots rank'd in loose array;

So wide they stood, and like a furnace mouth

Cast forth redounding smoke and ruddy flame.

Before their eyes in sudden view appear

The secrets of the hoary deep; a dark

Illimitable ocean, without bound,

Without dimension, where length, breadth, and height,

And time, and place are lost; where eldest Night

And Chaos, ancestors of Nature, hold

Eternal anarchy, amidst the noise

Of endless wars, and by confusion stand.

For Hot, Cold, Moist, and Dry, four champions fierce,

Strive here for mastery, and to battle bring

Their embryon atoms; they around the flag

Of each his faction, in their several clans,

Light arm'd or heavy, sharp, smooth, swift, or slow,

Swarm populous, unnumber'd as the sands

Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid soil,

Levied to side with warring winds, and poised

Their lighter wings. To whom these most adhere,

He rules a moment: Chaos umpire sits,

And by decision more embroils the fray,

By which he reigns: next him high arbiter

Chance governs all. Into this wild abyss,

The womb of Nature, and perhaps her grave,

Of neither sea, nor shore, nor air, nor fire,

But all these in their pregnant causes mix'd

Confusedly, and which thus must ever fight,

Unless the Almighty Maker them ordain

His dark materials to create more worlds;

Into this wild abyss the wary fiend

Stood on the brink of Hell, and look'd a while,

Pondering his voyage.

### L'ALLEGRO.

HENCE loathed Melancholy,

Of Cerberus, and blackest Midnight born,

In Stygian cave forlorn,

'Mongst horrid shapes, and shrieks, and sighs unholy,

Find out some uncouth cell,

Where brooding Darkness spreads his jealous wings,

And the night raven sings;

There under ebon shades, and low-brow'd rocks,

As ragged as thy locks,

In dark Cimmerian desert ever dwell.

But come, thou Goddess fair and free,

In Heav'n yclep'd Euphrosyne,

And by men, heart-easing Mirth,

Whom lovely Venus at a birth

With two sister Graces bore:

To ivy-crowned Bacchus bore:

Or whether (as some sages sing)

The frolic wind that breathes the spring,

Zephyr, with Aurora playing,

As he met her once a maying,

There on beds of violets blue,

And fresh-blown roses wash'd in dew,

Fill'd her with thee a daughter fair,

So buxom, blithe, and debonair.

Haste, thee, Nymph, and bring with thee

Jest and youthful Jollity,

Quips, and cranks, and wanton wiles,

Nods, and becks, and wreathed smiles,

Such as hang on Hebe's cheek,

And love to live in dimple sleek;

Sport that wrinkled Care derides,

And Laughter holding both his sides :  
 Come, and trip it as you go  
 On the light fantastic toe,  
 And in thy right hand lead with thee,  
 The mountain-nymph, sweet Liberty ;  
 And, if I give thee honour due,  
 Mirth, admit me of thy crew,  
 To live with her, and live with thee,  
 In unreprieved pleasures free :  
 To hear the lark begin his flight,  
 And singing startle the dull night,  
 From his watch-tow'r in the skies,  
 Till the dappled dawn doth rise ;  
 Then to come, in spite of sorrow,  
 And at my window bid good morrow  
 Through the sweetbrier, or the vine,  
 Or the twisted eglantine :  
 While the cock with lively din  
 Scatters the rear of darkness thin,  
 And to the stack, or the barn door,  
 Stoutly struts his dames before :  
 Oft list'ning how the hounds and horn  
 Cheerly rouse the slumb'ring morn,  
 From the side of some hoar hill,  
 Through the high wood echoing shrill :  
 Some time walking not unseen  
 By hedge-row elms, on hillocks green,  
 Right against the eastern gate,  
 Where the great Sun begins his state,  
 Rob'd in flames, and amber light,  
 The clouds in thousand liv'ries dight ;  
 While the ploughman, near at hand,  
 Whistles o'er the furrow'd land,  
 And the milk-maid singeth blithe,  
 And the mower whets his scythe,  
 And ev'ry shepherd tells his tale  
 Under the hawthorn in the dale.

Straight mine eye hath caught new  
 pleasures,  
 While the landscape round it measures,  
 Russet lawns, and fallows gray,  
 Where the nibbling flocks do stray ;  
 Mountains on whose barren breast  
 The lab'ring clouds do often rest ;  
 Meadows trim with daisies pied ;  
 Shallow brooks, and rivers wide :  
 Tow'rs and battlements it sees  
 Bosom'd high in tufted trees,  
 Where perhaps some beauty lies,  
 The cynosure of neighb'ring eyes.  
 Hard by, a cottage-chimney smokes,  
 From betwixt two aged oaks,  
 Where Corydon and Thyrsis met,

Are at their sav'ry dinner set  
 Of herbs, and other country messes,  
 Which the neat-handed Phyllis dresses :  
 And then in haste her bow'r she leaves,  
 With Thestylis to bind the sheaves ;  
 Or, if the earlier season lead,  
 To the tann'd haycock in the mead.

Sometimes, with secure delight,  
 The upland hamlets will invite,  
 When the merry bells ring round,  
 And the jocund rebecks sound  
 To many a youth, and many a maid,  
 Dancing in the chequer'd shade ;  
 And young and old come forth to play  
 On a sunshine holiday.  
 Till the livelong daylight fail ;  
 Then to the spicy nut-brown ale,  
 With stories told of many a feat,  
 How fairy Mab the junkets ate ;  
 She was pinch'd, and pull'd, she said,  
 And he by friar's lantern led ;  
 Tells how the drudging goblin sweat  
 To earn his cream-bowl duly set,  
 When in one night, ere glimpse of morn,  
 His shad'wy flail had thresh'd the corn,  
 That ten day-labourers could not end ;  
 Then lies him down, the lubber fiend,  
 And, stretch'd out all the chimney's  
 length,

Basks at the fire his hairy strength,  
 And, cropful, out of doors he flings,  
 Ere the first cock his matin rings.  
 Thus done the tales, to bed they creep,  
 By whispering winds soon lull'd asleep.

Tow'rd cities please us then,  
 And the busy hum of men,  
 Where throngs of knights and barons  
 bold

In weeds of peace high triumphs hold,  
 With store of ladies, whose bright eyes  
 Rain influence, and judge the prize  
 Of wit, or arms, while both contend  
 To win her grace, whom all commend.  
 There let Hymen oft appear  
 In saffron robes, with taper clear,  
 And pomp, and feast, and revelry,  
 With masque and antique pageantry,  
 Such sights as youthful poets dream,  
 On summer eves, by haunted stream.  
 Then to the well-trod stage anon,  
 If Jonson's learned sock be on,  
 Or sweetest Shakspeare, Fancy's child,  
 Warble his native woodnotes wild.

And ever against eating cares  
Lap me in soft Lydian airs,  
Married to immortal verse,  
Such as the melting soul may pierce,  
In notes with many a winding bout  
Of linked sweetness long drawn out,  
With wanton heed, and giddy cunning,  
The melting voice through mazes running,  
Untwisting all the chains that tie  
The hidden soul of Harmony ;  
That Orpheus' self may heave his head  
From golden slumber on a bed  
Of heap'd Elysian flow'rs, and hear  
Such strains as would have won the ear  
Of Pluto, to have quite set free  
His half-regain'd Eurydice.

These delights if thou canst give,  
Mirth, with thee I mean to live.

### IL PENSEROSO.

HENCE vain deluding joys,  
The brood of Folly, without father bred !  
How little you bestead,

Or fill the fixed mind with all your  
toys !

Dwell in some idle brain,  
And fancies fond, with gaudy shapes  
possess,  
As thick and numberless

As the gay notes that people the  
sunbeams,

Or likest hov'ring dreams,

The fickle pensioners of Morpheus'  
train.

But hail, thou Goddess, sage and holy !  
Hail divinest Melancholy !

Whose saintly visage is too bright  
To hit the sense of human sight,

And therefore to our weaker view  
O'erlaid with black, staid Wisdom's hue :

Black, but such as in esteem  
Prince Memnon's sister might beseem,

O, that starr'd Ethiop queen, that strove  
To set her beauty's praise above

The sea-nymphs, and their pow'rs  
offended,

Yet thou art higher far descended ;  
Thee bright-hair'd Vesta long of yore

To solitary Saturn bore ;  
His daughter she (in Saturn's reign

Such mixture was not held a stain).

Of in glim'ring bow'rs and glades  
He met her, and in secret shades  
Of woody Ida's inmost grove,  
While yet there was no fear of Jove.

Come, pensive nun, devout and pure,  
Sober, steadfast, and demure,  
All in a robe of darkest grain  
Flowing with majestic train,  
And sable stole of cypress lawn,  
Over thy decent shoulders drawn.  
Come, but keep thy wonted state,  
With even step and musing gait,  
And looks commercing with the skies,  
Thy rapt soul sitting in thine eyes :  
There, held in holy passion still,  
Forget thyself to marble, till

With a sad leaden downward cast,  
Thou fix them on the earth as fast ;  
And join with thee calm Peace, and Quiet,  
Spare Fast, that oft with Gods doth diet,

And hear the Muses in a ring  
Aye round about Jove's altar sing ;

And add to these retired Leisure,  
That in trim gardens takes his pleasure ;

But first and chiefest with thee bring  
Him that yon soars on golden wing,

Guiding the fiery-wheeled throne,  
The cherub Contemplation ;

And the mute Silence hist along,  
'Less Philomel will deign a song,

In his sweetest, saddest plight,  
Smoothing the rugged brow of Night,

While Cynthia checks her dragon yoke,  
Gently o'er th' accustom'd oak ;

Sweet bird, that shunn'st the noise or  
folly,

Most musical, most melancholy !  
Thee, chantress, oft the woods among,

I woo to hear thy ev'ning song ;  
And missing thee, I walk unseen

On the dry smooth-shaven green,  
To behold the wand'ring Moon,

Riding near her highest noon,  
Like one that had been led astray

Through the Heav'n's wide pathless way ; \*

And oft, as if her head she bow'd,  
Stooping through a fleecy cloud.

Oft on a plat of rising ground  
I hear the far-off curfew sound,

Over some wide-water'd shore,  
Swinging slow with sullen roar.

Or if the air will not permit,  
Some still, removed place will fit,

Where glowing embers through the room  
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom,  
Far from all resort of mirth,  
Save the cricket on the hearth,  
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,  
To bless the doors from nightly harm.

Or let my lamp at midnight hour  
Be seen on some high lonely tow'r,  
Where I may oft outwatch the Bear,  
With thrice great Hermes, or unsphere  
The spirit of Plato, to unfold  
What worlds, or what vast regions hold  
Th' immortal mind, that hath forsook  
Her mansion in its fleshly nook ;  
And of those demons that are found  
In fire, air, flood, or under ground,  
Whose power hath a true consent  
With planet, or with element.

Sometime let gorgeous Tragedy  
In sceptred pall come sweeping by,  
Presenting Thebes, or Pelops' line,  
Or the tale of Troy divine,  
Or what (though rare) of later age,  
Ennobled hath the buskin'd stage.

But, O sad virgin ! that thy pow'r  
Might raise Musæus from his bow'r,  
Or bid the soul of Orpheus sing  
Such notes as, warbled to the string,  
Drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek,  
And made Hell grant what Love did  
seek ;

Or call up him that left half told  
The story of Cambuscan bold,  
Of Camball, and of Algarsife,  
And who had Canace to wife,  
That own'd the virtuous ring and glass,  
And of the wondrous horse of brass,  
On which the Tartar king did ride ;  
And if aught else great bards besides  
In sage and solemn tunes have sung,  
Of tourneys and of trophies hung ;  
Of forests and enchantments drear,  
Where more is meant than meets the  
ear.

Thus Night oft see me in thy pale  
career,  
Till civil-suited Morn appear,  
Not trick'd and frounc'd as she was  
wont

With the Attic boy to hunt,  
But kerchief'd in a comely cloud,  
While rocking winds are piping loud,  
Or usher'd with a shower still,

When the gust hath blown his fill,  
Ending on the rustling leaves,  
With minute drops from off the eaves.

And when the sun begins to fling  
His flaming beams, me, Goddess, bring  
To arched walks of twilight groves,  
And shadows brown, that Sylvan loves,  
Of pine or monumental oak,  
Where the rude axe with heaved stroke  
Was never heard, the Nymphs to  
daunt,  
Or fright them from their hallow'd  
haunt.

There in close covert by some brook,  
Where no profaner eye may look,  
Hide me from day's garish eye,  
While the bee with honey'd thigh,  
That at her flow'ry work doth sing,  
And the waters murmuring,  
With such concert as they keep,  
Entice the dewy-feather'd Sleep :  
And let some strange mysterious dream  
Wave at his wings in airy stream  
Of lively portraiture display'd,  
Softly on my eyelids laid :

And as I wake, sweet music breathe  
Above, about, or underneath,  
Sent by some spirit to mortals good,  
Or th' unseen Genius of the wood.

But let my due feet never fail  
To walk the studious cloister's pale,  
And love the high imbow'd roof,  
With antique pillars massy proof,  
And storied windows richly dight,  
Casting a dim religious light.  
There let the pealing organ blow,  
To the full-voiced quire below,  
In service high, and anthems clear,  
As may with sweetness, through mine  
ear

Dissolve me into ecstasies,  
And bring all Heav'n before mine  
eyes.

And may at last my weary age  
Find out the peaceful hermitage,  
The hairy gown and mossy cell,  
Where I may sit and rightly spell  
Of ev'ry star that Heav'n doth shew,  
And ev'ry herb that sips the dew ;  
Till old Experience do attain  
To something like prophetic strain.

These pleasures, Melancholy, give,  
And I with thee will choose to live.

## LYCIDAS.

YET once more, O ye laurels, and once  
more,

Ye myrtles brown, with ivy never sere,  
I come, to pluck your berries harsh and  
crude ;

And, with forced fingers rude,  
Shatter your leaves before the mellowing  
year.

Bitter constraint, and sad occasion dear,  
Compels me to disturb your season due :  
For Lycidas is dead, dead ere his prime,  
Young Lycidas, and hath not left his  
peer :

Who would not sing for Lycidas ? he  
knew,

Himself, to sing, and build the lofty  
rhyme.

He must not float upon his watery bier  
Unwept, and welter to the parching wind,  
Without the meed of some melodious  
tear.

Begin, then, sisters of the sacred well,  
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth  
spring ;

Begin, and somewhat loudly sweep the  
string ;

Hence with denial, vain, and coy excuse :  
So may some gentle muse

With lucky words favour my destined  
urn ;

And, as he passes, turn,  
And bid fair peace be to my sable shroud.

For we were nursed upon the self-same  
hill,

Fed the same flock, by fountain, shade,  
and rill.

Together both, ere the high lawns ap-  
pear'd

Under the opening eyelids of the morn,  
We drove a-field, and both together  
heard

What time the gray-fly winds her sultry  
horn,

Battening our flocks with the fresh dews  
of night,

Oft till the star, that rose at evening  
bright,

Toward heaven's descent had sloped his  
westerling wheel.

Meanwhile the rural ditties were not  
mute,

Temper'd to the oaten flute ;  
Rough satyrs danced, and fauns with  
cloven heel

From the glad sound would not be absent  
long :

And old Damoetas loved to hear our  
song.

But, oh ! the heavy change, now thou  
art gone,

Now thou art gone and never must  
return !

Thee, shepherd, thee the woods, and  
desert caves,

With wild thyme and the gadding vine  
o'ergrown,

And all their echoes, mourn :

The willows, and the hazel copses green,  
Shall now no more be seen

Fanning their joyous leaves to thy soft  
lays.

As killing as the canker to the rose,  
Or taint-worm to the weanling herds that  
graze,

Or frost to flowers, that their gay ward-  
robe wear,

When first the white-thorn blows ;  
Such, Lycidas, thy loss to shepherd's ear.

Where were ye, nymphs, when the re-  
morseless deep

Closed o'er the head of your loved Ly-  
cidas ?

For neither were ye playing on the steep,  
Where your old bards, the famous Druids,  
lie,

Nor on the shaggy top of Mona high,  
Nor yet where Deva spreads her wizard  
stream :

Ah me ! I fondly dream,  
Had ye been there : for what could that  
have done ?

What could the Muse herself that Orpheus  
bore,

The Muse herself, for her enchanting son,  
Whom universal nature did lament,

When, by the rout that made the hideous  
roar,

His gory visage down the stream was  
sent,

Down the swift Hebrus to the Lesbian  
shore ?

Alas ! what boots it with incessant care  
To tend the homely, slighted, shepherd's  
trade,



And strictly meditate the thankless Muse?  
Were it not better done, as others use,  
To sport with Amaryllis, in the shade,  
Or with the tangles of Neæra's hair?

Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth  
raise

(That last infirmity of noble minds)

To scorn delights and live laborious days:  
But the fair guerdon when we hope to find,  
And think to burst out into sudden blaze,  
Comes the blind Fury with the abhorred  
shears,

And slits the thin-spun life. "But not  
the praise,"

Phœbus replied, and touch'd my trembling  
ears;

"Fame is no plant that grows on mortal  
soil,

Nor in the glistening foil

Set off to the world, nor in broad rumour  
lies,

But lives and spreads aloft by those pure  
eyes,

And perfect witness of all-judging Jove;

As he pronounces lastly on each deed,

Of so much fame in heaven expect thy  
need."

O fountain Arethuse, and thou honour'd  
flood,

Smooth-sliding Mincius, crown'd with  
vocal reeds!

That strain I heard was of a higher  
mood:

But now my oat proceeds,

And listens to the herald of the sea

That came in Neptune's plea;

He ask'd the waves, and ask'd the felon  
winds,

What hard mishap hath doom'd this  
gentle swain?

And question'd every gust, of rugged  
wings,

That blows from off each beaked promon-  
tory:

They knew not of his story;

And sage Hippotades their answer brings,  
That not a blast was from his dungeon  
stray'd:

The air was calm, and on the level brine  
Sleek Panope with all her sisters play'd.

It was that fatal and perfidious bark,  
Built in the eclipse, and rigg'd with curses

dark,

That sunk so low that sacred head of  
thine.

Next, Camus, reverend sire, went footing  
slow,

His mantle hairy, and his bonnet sedge,  
Inwrought with figures dim, and on the  
edge

Like to that sanguine flower inscribed  
with woe.

"Ah! who hath reft," quoth he, "my  
dearest pledge?"

Last came, and last did go,

The pilot of the Galilean lake;

Two massy keys he bore, of metals twain,

(The golden opes, the iron shuts again,)

He shook his mitred locks, and stern  
bespake:

"How well could I have spared for thee,  
young swain,

Enow of such as, for their bellies' sake,  
Creep, and intrude, and climb into the  
fold!

Of other care they little reckoning make,  
Than how to scramble at the shearers'  
feast,

And shove away the worthy bidden guest;  
Blind mouths! that scarce themselves  
know how to hold

A sheep-hook, or have learn'd ought else  
the least

That to the faithful herdsman's art be-  
longs!

What reck's it them? What need they?  
They are sped;

And, when they list, their lean and flashy  
songs

Grate on their scrannel pipes of wretched  
straw;

The hungry sheep look up, and are not  
fed,

But, swain with wind and the rank mist  
they draw,

Rot inwardly, and foul contagion spread;  
Besides what the grim wolf, with privy  
paw,

Daily devours apace, and nothing said:  
But that two-handed engine at the door  
Stands ready to smite once, and smite no  
more."

Return, Alpheus, the dread voice is  
past,

That shrunk thy streams; return Sicilian  
Muse,

And call the vales, and bid them hither  
cast

Their bells and flowerets of a thousand  
hues.

Ye valleys low, where the mild whispers  
use

Of shades, and wanton winds, and gush-  
ing brooks,

On whose fresh lap the swart star sparely  
looks ;

Throw hither all your quaint enamell'd  
eyes,

That on the green turf suck the honey'd  
showers,

And purple all the ground with vernal  
flowers.

Bring the rathe primrose that forsaken  
dies,

The tufted crow-toe, and pale jessamine,  
The white pink, and the pansy freak'd

with jet,  
The glowing violet,

The musk-rose, and the well-attired wood-  
bine,

With cowslips wan that hang the pensive  
head,

And every flower that sad embroidery  
wears :

Bid amaranthus all his beauty shed,  
And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,

To strew the laureate hearse where Lycid  
lies.

For, so to interpose a little ease,  
Let our frail thoughts dally with false

surmise :  
Ah me ! whilst thee the shores and sound-

ing seas  
Wash far away, where'er thy bones are

hurl'd,  
Whether beyond the stormy Hebrides,

Where thou, perhaps, under the whelming  
tide,

Visit'st the bottom of the monstrous  
world ;

Or whether thou, to our moist vows de-  
nied,

• Sleep'st by the fable of Bellerus old,  
Where the great vision of the guarded

mount  
Looks towards Namancos and Bayona's

hold ;  
Look homeward, angel, now, and melt

with ruth :

And O, ye dolphins, waft the hapless  
youth.

Weep no more, woful shepherds, weep  
no more,

For Lycidas, your sorrow, is not dead,  
Sunk though he be beneath the watery

floor ;  
So sinks the day-star in the ocean-bed,

And yet anon repairs his drooping head,  
And tricks his beams, and, with new-

spangled ore,  
Flames in the forehead of the morning

sky :  
So Lycidas sunk low, but mounted

high,  
Through the dear might of Him that

walk'd the waves,  
Where, other groves and other streams

along,  
With nectar pure his oozy locks he

laves,  
And hears the unexpressive nuptial song

In the blest kingdoms meek of joy and  
love.

There entertain him all the saints  
above,

In solemn troops and sweet societies,  
That sing, and, singing, in their glory

move,  
And wipe the tears for ever from his

eyes.  
Now, Lycidas, the shepherds weep no

more ;  
Henceforth thou art the genius of the

shore.  
In thy large recompense, and shalt be

good  
To all that wander in that perilous flood.

Thus sang the uncouth swain to the  
oaks and rills,

While the still morn went out with sandals  
gray ;

He touch'd the tender stops of various  
quills,

With eager thought warbling his Doric  
lay :

And now the sun had stretch'd out all the  
hills,

And now was dropt into the western bay :  
At last he rose, and twitch'd his mantle

blue :  
To-morrow to fresh woods, and pastures

new.

### ON THE LATE MASSACRE IN PIEDMONT.

AVENGE, O Lord, thy slaughter'd saints,  
whose bones  
Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains  
cold ;  
Even them who kept thy truth so pure  
of old,  
When all our fathers worshipp'd *stocks*  
and stones,  
Forget not : in thy book record their  
groans  
Who were thy sheep, and in their  
ancient fold  
Slain by the bloody Piedmontese, that  
roll'd  
Mother with infant down the rocks.  
Their moans  
The vales redoubled to the hills, and they  
To heaven. Their martyr'd blood and  
ashes sow  
O'er all the Italian fields, where still  
doth sway  
The triple tyrant : that from these may  
grow  
A hundred fold, who, having learn'd  
thy way,  
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

### O NIGHTINGALE.

O NIGHTINGALE, that on yon bloomy  
spray  
Warblast at eve, when all the woods  
are still,  
Thou with fresh hope the lover's heart  
does fill,  
While the jolly Hours lead on propitious  
May.  
Thy liquid notes that close the eye of day,  
First heard before the shallow cuckoo's  
bill,  
Portend success in love ; O, if Jove's  
will  
Have link'd that amorous power to thy  
soft lay,  
Now timely sing, e'er the rude bird of  
hate  
Foretell my hopeless doom in some  
grove nigh ;

As thou from year to year hast sung  
too late

For my relief, yet hadst no reason why :  
Whether the muse, or love call thee his  
mate,  
Both them I serve, and of their train  
am I.

### CROMWELL OUR CHIEF OF MEN.

CROMWELL, our chief of men, who through  
a cloud  
Not of war only, but detractions rude,  
Guided by faith, and matchless fortitude,  
To peace and truth thy glorious way  
hast plough'd,  
And on the neck of crowned Fortune proud  
Hast rear'd God's trophies, and his  
work pursued,  
While Darwin stream with blood of  
Scots imbrued,  
And Dunbar field resounds thy praises  
loud,  
And Worcester's laureat wreath. Yet  
much remains  
To conquer still ; Peace hath her vic-  
tories  
No less renown'd than war : new foes  
arise  
Threat'ning to bind our souls with secular  
chains :  
Help us to save free conscience from  
the paw  
Of hireling wolves, whose gospel is their  
maw.

### ON HIS BLINDNESS.

WHEN I consider how my light is spent  
E'er half my days in this dark world  
and wide,  
And that one talent which is death to  
hide,  
Lodg'd with me useless, though my soul  
more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest he returning chide ;  
Doth God exact day labour, light  
deny'd,  
I fondly ask ? but patience to prevent  
That murmur soon replies, God doth not  
need

Either man's work<sup>or</sup> his own gifts ;  
 who best  
 Bear his mild<sup>yoke</sup>, they serve him best :  
 his state  
 Is kingly ; thousands at his bidding speed,  
 And post o'er land and ocean without  
 rest ;  
 They also serve who only stand and  
 wait.

TO CYRIAC SKINNER.

CYRIAC, this three years' day these eyes,  
 tho' clear  
 To outward view, of blemish or of spot,  
 Bereft of light, their seeing have forgot,  
 Nor to their idle orbs doth sight appear  
 Of sun, or moon, or star, throughout the  
 year,  
 Or man, or woman. Yet I argue not  
 Against Heav'n's hand or will, nor bate  
 a jot  
 Of heart or hope ; but still bear up, and  
 steer  
 Right onward. What supports me ? dost  
 thou ask :  
 The conscience, Friend, to have lost  
 them overply'd  
 In Liberty's defence, my noble task,  
 Of which all Europe talks from side to  
 side,  
 This thought might lead me thro' the  
 world's vain mask,  
 Content though blind, had I no better  
 guide.

ON HIS DECEASED WIFE.

METHOUGHT I saw my late espoused  
 saint  
 Brought to me like Alcestis from the  
 grave,  
 Whom Jove's great son to her glad  
 husband gave,  
 Rescued from death by force though  
 pale and faint.  
 Mine, as whom wash'd from spot of child-  
 bed taint,  
 Purification in the old law did save,  
 And such, as yet once more I trust to  
 have

Full sight of her in Heav'n, without  
 restraint,  
 Came vested all in white, pure as her  
 mind :  
 Her face was veil'd, yet to my fancied  
 sight  
 Love, sweetness, goodness, in her person  
 shin'd  
 So clear, as in no face with more delight.  
 But O, as to embrace me she inclin'd,  
 I wak'd, she fled, and day brought back  
 my night.

HYMN ON THE NATIVITY.

It was the winter wild,  
 While the heaven-born child  
 All meanly wrapt in the rude manger  
 lies ;  
 Nature, in awe of him,  
 Had doffed her gaudy trim,  
 With her great Master so to sympa-  
 thise :  
 It was no season then for her  
 To wanton with the sun, her lusty  
 paramour.  
 Only with speeches fair  
 She woos the gentle air,  
 To hide her guilty front with innocent  
 snow ;  
 And on her naked shame,  
 Pollute with sinful blame,  
 The saintly veil of maiden-white to  
 throw ;  
 Confounded, that Her Maker's eyes  
 Should look so near upon her foul de-  
 formities.  
 But he, her fears to cease,  
 Sent down the meek-ey'd Peace ;  
 She, crown'd with olive green, came  
 softly sliding  
 Down through the turning sphere,  
 His ready harbinger,  
 With turtle wing the amorous clouds  
 dividing ;  
 And, waving wide her myrtle wand,  
 She strikes a universal peace through sea  
 and land.

No war or battle's sound  
 Was heard the world around :  
 The idle spear and shield were high up  
 hung ;  
 The hooked chariot stood  
 Unstain'd with hostile blood ;  
 The trumpet spake not to the armed  
 throng ;  
 And kings sat still with awful eye,  
 As if they surely knew their sov'reign  
 lord was by.

But peaceful was the night,  
 Wherein the Prince of Light  
 His reign of peace upon the earth  
 began :  
 The winds, with wonder whist,  
 Smoothly the waters kiss'd,  
 Whispering new joys to the mild  
 ocean,  
 Who now hath quite forgot to rave,  
 While birds of calm sit brooding on the  
 charmed wave.

The stars, with deep amaze,  
 Stand fix'd in steadfast gaze,  
 Bending one way their precious influ-  
 ence ;  
 And will not take their flight,  
 For all the morning light,  
 Or Lucifer had often warn'd them  
 thence ;  
 But in their glimmering orbs did glow,  
 Until their Lord himself bespake, and  
 bid them go.

And, though the shady gloom  
 Had given day her room,  
 The sun himself withheld his wonted  
 speed,  
 And hid his head for shame,  
 As his inferior flame  
 The new-enlighten'd world no more  
 should need ;  
 He saw a greater sun appear  
 Than his bright throne, or burning axle-  
 tree, could bear.

The shepherds on the lawn,  
 Or ere the point of dawn,  
 Sat simply chatting in a rustic row ;  
 Full little thought they then  
 That the mighty Pan

Was kindly come to live with them  
 below ;  
 Perhaps their loves, or else their sheep,  
 Was all that did their silly thoughts so  
 busy keep.

When such music sweet  
 Their hearts and ears did greet,  
 As never was by mortal fingers strook,  
 Divinely-warbled voice  
 Answering the stringed noise,  
 As all their souls in blissful rapture  
 took :  
 The air, such pleasure loathe to lose,  
 With thousand echoes still prolongs each  
 heavenly close.

Nature, that heard such sound,  
 Beneath the hollow round  
 Of Cynthia's seat, the airy region  
 thrilling,  
 Now was almost won,  
 To think her part was done,  
 And that her reign had here its last  
 fulfilling ;  
 She knew such harmony alone  
 Could hold all heaven and earth in  
 happier union.

At last surrounds their sight  
 A globe of circular light,  
 That with long beams the shame-fac'd  
 night array'd ;  
 The helmed cherubim,  
 And sworded seraphim,  
 Are seen in glittering ranks with wings  
 display'd,  
 Harping in loud and solemn quire,  
 With unexpressive notes, to Heaven's  
 new-born heir.

Such music, as 'tis said,  
 Before was never made,  
 But when of old the sons of morning  
 sung,  
 While the Creator great  
 His constellations set,  
 And the well-balanc'd world on hinges  
 hung,  
 And cast the dark foundations deep,  
 And bid the weltering waves their oozy  
 channel keep.

Ring out, ye crystal spheres,  
 Once bless our human ears,  
 If ye have power to touch our senses so ;  
 And let your silver chime  
 Move in melodious time ;  
 And let the bass of Heaven's deep  
   organ blow ;  
 And, with your ninefold harmony,  
 Make up full concert to the angelic  
   symphony.

For, if such holy song  
 Enwrap our fancy long,  
 Time will run back, and fetch the age  
   of gold ;  
 And speckled Vanity  
 Will sicken soon and die,  
 And leprous Sin will melt from earthly  
   mould ;  
 And Hell itself will pass away,  
 And leave her dolorous mansions to the  
   peering day.

Yea, Truth and Justice then  
 Will down return to men,  
 Orb'd in a rainbow ; and, like glories  
   wearing,  
 Mercy will sit between,  
 Thron'd in celestial sheen,  
 With radiant feet the tissued clouds  
   down steering ;  
 And Heaven, as at some festival,  
 Will open wide the gates of her high  
   palace hall.

But wisest Fate says no,  
 This must not yet be so,  
 The babe yet lies in smiling infancy,  
 That on the bitter cross  
 Must redeem our loss,  
 So both himself and us to glorify :  
 Yet first, to those ychain'd in sleep,  
 The wakeful trump of doom must thunder  
   through the deep,

With such a horrid clang  
 As on Mount Sinai rang,  
 While the red fire and smould'ring  
   clouds out brake ;  
 The aged earth aghast,  
 With terror of that blast,  
 Shall from the surface to the centre  
   shake ;

When, at the world's last session,  
 The dreadful Judge in middle air shall  
   spread his throne.

And then at last our bliss,  
 Full and perfect is,  
 But now begins ; for, from this happy  
   day,  
 The old dragon, underground,  
 In straiter limits bound,  
 Not half so far casts his usurped sway ;  
 And, wroth to see his kingdom fail,  
 Swinges the scaly horror of his folded tail.

The oracles are dumb ;  
 No voice or hideous hum  
   Runs through the arched roof in words  
   deceiving.  
 Apollo from his shrine  
 Can no more divine,  
 With hollow shriek the steep of Delphos  
   leaving.  
 No nightly trance, or breathed spell,  
 Inspires the pale-eyed priest from the  
   prophetic cell.

The lonely mountains o'er,  
 And the resounding shore,  
 A voice of weeping heard and loud  
   lament ;  
 From haunted spring and dale,  
 Edg'd with poplar pale,  
 The parting Genius is with sighing sent ;  
 With flower-inwoven tresses torn,  
 The nymphs in twilight shade of tangled  
   thickets mourn.

In consecrated earth,  
 And on the holy hearth,  
 The Lars and Lemurs mourn with mid-  
   night plaint.  
 In urns and altars round,  
 A drear and dying sound  
 Affrights the Flamens at their service  
   quaint ;  
 And the chill marble seems to sweat,  
 While each peculiar power foregoes his  
   wonted seat.

Peor and Baälím  
 Forsake their temples dim  
 With that twice-battered god of Pales-  
   tine ;

And mooned Ashtoroth,  
Heaven's queen and mother both,  
Now sits not girt with tapers' holy  
shine ;  
The Libyac Hammon shrinks his horn ;  
In vain the Tyrian maids their wounded  
Thammuz mourn.

And sullen Moloch, fled,  
Hath left in shadows dread  
His burning idol all of blackest hue :  
In vain with cymbals' ring  
They call the grisly king,  
In dismal dance about the furnace  
blue :

The brutish gods of Nile as fast,  
Isis, and Orus, and the dog Anubis,  
haste.

Nor is Osiris seen  
In Memphian grove or green,  
Trampling the unshowered grass with  
lowings loud ;  
Nor can he be at rest  
Within his sacred chest,  
Nought but profoundest hell can be his  
shroud ;  
In vain with timbrell'd anthems dark  
The sable-stoled sorcerers bear his wor-  
shipp'd ark.

He feels from Judah's land  
The dreaded infant's hand,  
The rays of Bethlehem blind his dusky  
eyne ;

Nor all the gods beside  
Longer dare abide,  
Not Typhon huge ending in snaky  
twine :  
Our babe, to show his Godhead true,  
Can in his swaddling bands control the  
damned crew.

So, when the sun in bed,  
Curtain'd with cloudy red,  
Pillows his chin upon an orient wave,  
The flocking shadows pale,  
Troop to the infernal jail,  
Each fetter'd ghost slips to his several  
grave ;  
And the yellow-skirted fays  
Fly after the night-steeds, leaving their  
moon-loved maze.

But see, the Virgin'blest  
Hath laid her babe to rest ;  
Time is, our tedious song should here  
have ending :  
Heaven's youngest-teemed star  
Hath fixed her polish'd car,  
Her sleeping Lord with handmaid  
lamp attending ;  
And all about the courtly stable  
Bright-harness'd angels sit in order ser-  
viceable.

### THE LADY'S SONG.

*Comus.*

SWEET Echo, sweetest nymph, that liv'st  
unseen

Within thy aery shell,  
By slow Meander's margent green,  
And in the violet-embroider'd vale,  
Where the love-lorn nightingale  
Nightly to thee her sad song mourneth  
well ;

Canst thou not tell me of a gentle pair  
That liketh thy Narcissus are ?  
O, if thou have

Hid them in some flowery cave,  
Tell me but where,  
Sweet queen of pae'ry, daughter of the  
sphere ! [skies,

So may'st thou be translated to the  
And give resounding grace to all Heaven's  
harmonies.

### HOW CHARMING IS DIVINE PHILOSOPHY.

How charming is divine philosophy !  
Not harsh and crabbed, as dull fools  
suppose,  
But musical as is Apollo's lute.  
And a perpetual feast of nectar'd sweets,  
Where no crude surfeit reigns.

### BEFORE THE STARRY THRES- HOLD OF JOVE'S COURT.

BEFORE the starry threshold of Jove's  
court,  
My mansion is, where those immortal  
shapes

Of bright aerial spirits live inspher'd  
 In regions mild of calm and serene air,  
 Above the smoke and stir of this dim spot  
 Which men call Earth, and with low-  
 thoughted care,  
 Confin'd and pester'd in this pin-fold  
 here,  
 Strive to keep up a frail and feverish  
 being,  
 Unmindful of the crown that Virtue gives  
 After this mortal change, to her true ser-  
 vants,  
 Amongst the enthron'd gods on sainted  
 seats.  
 Yet some there be that by due steps  
 aspire  
 To lay their just hands on that golden  
 key  
 That opes the palace of Eternity:  
 To such my errand is; and but for such,  
 I would not soil these pure ambrosial  
 weeds  
 With the rank vapours of this sin-worn  
 mould.

### CHASTITY.

So dear to Heav'n is saintly chastity,  
 That when a soul is found sincerely so,  
 A thousand liveried angels lacky her,  
 Driving far off each thing of sin and guilt,  
 And in clear dream, and solemn vision,  
 Tell her of things that no gross ear can  
 hear,  
 Till oft converse with heav'nly habitants  
 Begin to cast a beam on th' outward  
 shape,  
 The unpolluted temple of the mind,  
 And turn it by degrees to the soul's  
 essence,  
 Till all be made immortal; but when  
 Lust,  
 By unchaste looks, loose gestures, and  
 foul talk,  
 But most by lewd and lavish act of sin,  
 Lets in Defilement to the inward parts,  
 The soul grows clotted by contagion,  
 Imbodies and imbrutes, till she quite lose  
 The divine property of her first being.  
 Such are those thick and gloomy shadows  
 damp,  
 Oft seen in charnel vaults and sepulchres,

Ling'ring and sitting by a new-made  
 grave,  
 As loath to leave the body that it lov'd  
 And link'd itself by carnal sensuality  
 To a degenerate and degraded state.

### THE SPIRIT'S EPILOGUE.

To the ocean now I fly,  
 And those happy climes that lie  
 Where Day never shuts his eye,  
 Up in the broad fields of the sky:  
 There I suck the liquid air,  
 All amidst the garden fair  
 Of Hesperus, and his daughters three,  
 That sing about the golden tree:  
 Along the crisped shades and bowers  
 Revels the spruce and jocund spring,  
 The Graces and the rosy-bosom'd hours,  
 Thither all their bounties bring;  
 That there eternal summer dwells,  
 And west-winds with musky wing  
 About the cedarn alleys fling  
 Nard and cassia's balmy smells.  
 Iris there with humid bow  
 Waters the odorous banks, that blow  
 Flowers of more mingled hue  
 Than her purfled scarf can show,  
 And drenches with Elysian dew  
 (List, mortals, if your ears be true)  
 Beds of hyacinths and roses,  
 Where young Adonis oft reposes,  
 Waxing well of his deep wound  
 In slumbers soft, and on the ground  
 Sadly sits th' Assyrian queen;  
 But far above in spangled sheen  
 Celestial Cupid, her fam'd son advanc'd,  
 Holds her dear Psyche sweet entranc'd,  
 After her wand'ring labours long,  
 Till free consent the gods among  
 Make her his eternal bride,  
 And from her fair unspotted side  
 Two blissful twins are to be born,  
 Youth and Joy; so Jove hath sworn.  
 But now my task is smoothly done,  
 I can fly, or I can run,  
 Quickly to the green earth's end,  
 Where the bow'd welkin slow doth bend  
 And from thence can soar as soon  
 To the corners of the moon.  
 Mortals that would follow me,  
 Love Virtue, she alone is free,



She can teach you how to climb  
Higher than the spherie chime ;  
Or if Virtue feeble were,  
Heaven itself would stoop to her.

~~~~~  
SONG. MAY MORNING.

Now the bright morning star, day's har-
* binger,
Comes dancing from the East, and leads
with her
The flow'ry May, who from her green lap
throws
The yellow cowslip, and the pale prim-
rose.

Hail bounteous May ! that dost inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire ;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing,
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee and wish thee long.

~~~~~  
[SIR JOHN DENHAM. 1615—1668.]

THE THAMES.

My eye, descending from the hill, sur-  
veys,  
Where Thames among the wanton valleys  
strays ;  
Thames, the most loved of all the ocean's  
sons  
By his old sire, to his embraces runs,  
Hasting to pay his tribute to the sea,  
Like mortal life to meet eternity.  
Though with those streams he no remem-  
brance hold,  
Whose foam is amber and their gravel  
gold,  
His genuine and less guilty wealth to  
explore,  
Search not his bottom but survey his  
shore,  
O'er which he kindly spreads his spacious  
wing  
And hatches plenty for the ensuing  
spring,  
And then destroys it with too fond a stay,  
Like mothers who their infants overlay ;  
Nor with a sudden and impetuous wave,  
Like profuse kings, resumes the wealth he  
gave.

No unexpected inundations spoil  
The mower's hopes, nor mock the plough  
man's toil,  
But godlike his unwearied bounty flows ;  
First loves to do, then loves the good he  
does.  
Nor are his blessings to his banks con-  
fined,  
Put free or common as the sea or wind ,  
When he to boast or to disperse her  
stores,  
Full of the tributes of his grateful shores,  
Visits the world, and in his flying towers,  
Brings home to us, and makes both  
Indies ours :  
Finds wealth where 'tis, bestows it where  
it wants,  
Cities in deserts, woods in cities plants ;  
So that to us no thing, no place is  
strange,  
While his fair bosom is the world's ex-  
change.  
O, could I flow like thee, and make thy  
stream  
My great example, as it is my theme !  
Though deep, yet clear ; though gentle,  
yet not dull ;  
Strong without rage ; without o'erflowing  
full !

~~~~~  
[ANONYMOUS. About 1650.]

THE THREE RAVENS.

THERE were three ravens sat on a tree,
They were as black as they might be :
The one of them said to his mate,
" Where shall we our breakfast take ? "
" Down in yonder green field,
There lies a knight slain under his shield ;
" His hounds they lie down at his feet,
So well do they their master keep ;
" His hawks they fly so eagerly.
There's no fowl dare come him nigh."
Down there comes a fallow doe,
As great with young as she might go.
She lifted up his bloody head,
And kissed his wounds that were so red.

She got him up upon her back,
And carried him to earthen lake.

She buried him before the prime,
She was dead herself before even-song
time.

God send every gentleman
Such hawks, such hounds, and such a
leman.

[JOHN DRYDEN. 1636—1700.]

ODE TO THE MEMORY OF MRS.
ANNE KILLIGREW.

THOU youngest virgin-daughter of the
skies,

Made in the last promotion of the blest;
Whose palms, new pluck'd from para-
dise, [rise,

In spreading branches more sublimely
Rich with immortal green above the rest:
Whether, adopted to some neighbouring
star,

Thou roll'st above us, in thy wandering
race,

Or, in procession fix'd and regular,
Mov'st with the heaven's majestic pace;

Or, call'd to more superior bliss,
Thou tread'st, with seraphims, the vast
abyss:

Whatever happy region is thy place,
Cease thy celestial song a little space;
Thou wilt have time enough for hymns
divine,

Since heaven's eternal year is thine.
Hear then a mortal muse thy praise re-
hearse,

In no ignoble verse:
But such as thy own voice did practise
here,

When thy first fruits of poesy were given,
To make thyself a welcome inmate there;
While yet a young probationer,
And candidate of heaven.

If by traduction came thy mind,
Our wonder is the less to find
A soul so charming from a stock so good;
Thy father was transfused into thy blood:
So wert thou born into a tuneful strain,
An early, rich, and inexhausted vein.

But if thy pre-existing soul
Was form'd, at first, with myriads more,
It did through all the mighty poets roll,
Who Greek or Latin laurels wore,
And was that Sappho last, which once it
was before.

If so, then cease thy flight, O heaven-
born mind!

Thou hast no dross to purge from thy
rich ore:

Nor can thy soul a fairer mansion find,
Than was the beauteous frame she left
behind:

Return to fill or mend the choir of thy
celestial kind.

* * * * *

O gracious God! how far have we
Profaned thy heavenly gift of poesy?
Made prostitute and profligate the muse,
Debased to each obscene and impious use,
Whose harmony was first ordain'd above
For tongues of angels, and for hymns of
love?

O wretched we! why were we hurried
down

This lubric and adulterate age?

* * * * *

What can we say t'excuse our second
fall?

Let this thy vestal, heaven, atone for all:
Her Arethusian stream remains unsoil'd,
Unmix'd with foreign filth, and unde-
filed;

Her wit was more than man, her innocence
a child.

Art she had none, yet wanted none;
For nature did that want supply:

So rich in treasures of her own,
She might our boasted stores defy:
Such noble vigour did her verse adorn,
That it seem'd borrow'd, where 'twas
only born.

Her morals too were in her bosom bred,
By great examples daily fed.

* * * * *

Ev'n love (for love sometimes her muse
express)

Was but a lambent flame which play'd
about her breast:

Light as the vapours of a morning dream,

So cold herself, while she such warmth
 exprest,
 'Twas Cupid bathing in Diana's stream.

When in mid-air the golden trump shall
 sound

To raise the nations under ground;
 When in the valley of Jehoshaphat,
 The judging God shall close the book of
 fate;

And there the last assizes keep,
 For those who wake, and those who
 sleep;

When rattling bones together fly,
 From the four corners of the sky;
 When sinews on the skeletons are spread,
 Those clothed with flesh, and life inspires
 the dead;

The sacred poets first shall hear the sound,
 And foremost from the tomb shall
 bound,

For they are cover'd with the lightest
 ground;

And straight, with inborn vigour, on the
 wing,

Like mounting larks, to the new morning
 sing.

There thou, sweet saint, before the quire
 shalt go,

As harbinger of heaven, the way to
 show,

The way which thou so well hast learned
 below.

~~~~~

THE CHARACTER OF THE EARL  
 OF SHAFTESBURY DELI-  
 NEATED AS ACHITOPHEL.

Of these the false Achitophel was first;  
 A name to all succeeding ages curst:  
 For close designs and crooked counsels  
 fit,

Sagacious, bold, and turbulent of wit:  
 Restless, unfix'd in principles and place;  
 In power unpleased, impatient of disgrace;  
 A fiery soul, which, working out its way,  
 Fretted the pigmy body to decay,  
 And o'er-inform'd the tenement of clay:

A daring pilot in extremity;  
 Pleas'd with the danger, when the waves  
 went high

He sought the storms; but, for a calm  
 unfit,  
 Would steer too high the sands to boast  
 his wit.

Great wits are sure to madness near  
 allied,

And thin partitions do their bounds  
 divide:

Else why should he, with wealth and  
 honours blest,

Refuse his age the needful hours of rest?  
 Pursue a body which he could not please;  
 Bankrupt of life, yet prodigal of ease?

In friendship false, implacable in hate,  
 Resolved to ruin or to rule the state.

To compass this the triple bond he broke,  
 The pillars of the public safety shook,  
 And fitted Israel with a foreign yoke;  
 Then, seized with fear, yet still affecting

fame,  
 Usurp'd a patriot's all-atoning name;

So easy still it proves, in factious times,  
 With public zeal to cancel private crimes.

How safe is treason, and how sacred ill,  
 Where none can sin against the people's  
 will!

Where crowds can wink, and no offence  
 be known,

Since in another's guilt they find their  
 [own!  
 Yet fame deserved no enemy can grudge;  
 The statesman we abhor, but praise the  
 judge.

In Israel's courts ne'er sat an Abethdin  
 With more discerning eyes or hands more  
 clean,

Unbribed, unsought, the wretched to re-  
 dress;

Swift of despatch and easy of access.  
 Oh! had he been content to serve the crown

With virtues only proper to the gown;  
 Or had the rankness of the soil been freed  
 From cockle, that oppress'd the noble  
 seed;

David for him his tuneful harp had  
 strung,

And heaven had wanted one immortal  
 song.

But wild Ambition loves to slide, not  
 stand;

And Fortune's ice prefers to Virtue's land,  
 Achitophel, grown weary to possess  
 A lawful fame, and lazy happiness,

Disdain'd the golden fruit to gather free,  
And lent the crowd his arm to shake the tree.

Now, manifest of crimes contrived long  
He stood at bold defiance with his prince;  
Held up the buckler of the people's cause  
Against the crown, and skulk'd behind  
the laws.

VILLIERS, DUKE OF BUCKING-  
HAM, DELINEATED AS ZIMRI.

A MAN so various that he seem'd to be  
Not one but all mankind's epitome;  
Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong,  
Was everything by starts, and nothing  
long;

But, in the course of one revolving moon,  
Was chemist, fiddler, statesman, and  
buffoon.

Blest madman ! who could every hour em-  
ploy

With something new to wish or to enjoy.  
Railing and praising were his usual  
themes,

And both, to show his judgment, in ex-  
tremes.

So over-violent or over-civil,  
That every man with him was god or  
devil.

In squandering wealth was his peculiar  
art,

Nothing went unrewarded but desert ;  
Beggard by fools whom still he found too  
late ;

He had his jest, and they had his estate.  
He laugh'd himself from court, then had  
relief,

By forming parties, but could ne'er be  
chief ;

For, spite of him, the weight of business  
fell

On Absalom and wise Achitophel.

"RELIGIO LAICI."

DIM as the borrow'd beams of moon and  
stars

To lonely, weary, wandering travellers,  
Is reason to the soul : and as on high,

Those rolling fires discover but the sky,  
Not light us here ; so reason's glimmering  
ray

Was lent, not to assure our doubtful way,  
But guide us upward to a better day.

And as those nightly tapers disappear  
When day's bright lord ascends our hemi-  
sphere ;

So pale grows reason at religion's sight—  
So dies, and so dissolves in supernatural  
light.

ALEXANDER'S FEAST,

AN ODE IN HONOUR OF ST. CECILIA'S  
DAY.

'Twas at the royal feast for Persia won  
By Philip's warlike son :

Aloft in awful state

The godlike hero sate

On his imperial throne :

His valiant peers were placed around ;

Their brows with roses and with myrtle  
bound,

(So should desert in arms be crown'd) :

The lovely Thais, by his side.

Sate, like a blooming Eastern bride,  
In flower of youth and beauty's pride.

Happy, happy, happy pair !

None but the brave,

None but the brave,

None but the brave deserves the fair.

Timotheus, placed on high

Amid the tuneful quire,

With flying fingers touch'd the lyre :

The trembling notes ascend the sky,

And heavenly joys inspire.

The song began from Jove,

Who left his blissful seats above

(Such is the power of mighty Love !).

A dragon's fiery form belied the god,

Sublime on radiant spheres he rode,

When he to fair Olympia press'd,

And stamp'd an image of himself, a sove-  
reign of the world.

The listening crowd admire the lofty  
sound,

A present deity ! they shout around :

A present deity ! the vaulted roofs re-  
bound :

# A THOUSAND AND ONE GEARS.

With ravish'd ears  
The monarch hears,  
Assumes the god,  
Affects to nod,  
And seems to shake the spheres.

The praise of Bacchus then the sweet  
musician sung :

Of Bacchus ever fair and ever young :  
The jolly god in triumph comes ;  
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums ;  
Flush'd with a purple grace,  
He shows his honest face ;

Now give the hautboys breath : he comes !  
he comes !

Bacchus, ever fair and young,  
Drinking joys did first ordain ;  
Bacchus' blessings are a treasure,  
Drinking is the soldier's pleasure :  
Rich the treasure,  
Sweet the pleasure ;  
Sweet is pleasure after pain.

\*Soothed with the sound, the king  
grew vain ;

Fought all his battles o'er again ;  
And thrice he routed all his foes, and  
thrice he slew the slain.

The master saw the madness rise ;  
His glowing cheeks, his ardent eyes ;  
And, while he heaven and earth  
defied, [pride.  
Changed his hand, and check'd his  
He chose a mournful Muse,  
Soft pity to infuse :

He sung Darius great and good,

By too severe a fate,  
Fallen, fallen, fallen, fallen,  
Fallen from his high estate,  
And weltering in his blood ;

Deserted, at his utmost need,  
By those his former bounty fed :

On the bare earth exposed he lies,  
With not a friend to close his eyes.

With downcast looks the joyless victor  
sate,

Revolving in his alter'd soul,  
The various turns of chance below ;  
And now and then a sigh he stole,  
And tears began to flow.

The mighty master smiled to see  
That love was in the next degree :

'Twas but a kindred sound to move,  
For pity melts the mind to love.  
Softly sweet, in Lydian measures,  
Soon he soothed his soul to pleasures.

War, he sung, is toil and trouble ;  
Honour, but an empty bubble ;  
Never ending, still beginning,

Fighting still, and still destroying ;  
If the world be worth thy winning,  
Think, O think it worth enjoying !  
Lovely Thais sits beside thee,  
Take the good the gods provide thee !

The many rend the skies with loud ap-  
plause ;

So love was crown'd, but music won the  
cause.

The prince, unable to conceal his pain,  
Gazed on the fair,  
Who caused his care,  
And sigh'd and look'd, sigh'd and  
look'd,

Sigh'd and look'd, and sigh'd again :  
At length, with love and wine at once  
oppress'd,

The vanquish'd victor sunk upon her  
breast.

Now strike the golden lyre again :  
A louder yet, and yet a louder strain.  
Break his bands of sleep asunder,  
And rouse him, like a rattling peal or  
thunder.

Hark, hark, the horrid sound  
Has raised up his head !  
As awaked from the dead,  
And amazed, he stares around.

Revenge ! revenge ! Timotheus cries,  
See the Furies arise ;  
See the snakes that they rear,  
How they hiss in their hair,  
And the sparkles that flash from their  
eyes !

Behold a ghastly band,  
Each a torch in his hand !

Those are Grecian ghosts, that in battle  
were slain,

And unburied remain  
Inglorious on the plain :  
Give the vengeance due  
To the valiant crew !

Behold how they toss their torches on  
high,  
How they point to the Persian abodes.

And glittering temples of their hostile  
gods !

The princes applaud with a furious joy ;  
And the king seized a flambeau with zeal  
to destroy ;

Thals led the way,  
To light him to his prey,  
And, like another Helen, fired another  
Troy.

Thus, long ago,  
Ere heaving bellows learn'd to blow,  
While organs yet were mute ;  
Timotheus to his breathing flute  
And sounding lyre,  
Could swell the soul to rage, or kindle  
soft desire.

At last divine Cecilia came,  
Inventress of the vocal frame ;  
The sweet enthusiast, from her sacred  
store,

Enlarged the former narrow bounds,  
And added length to solemn sounds,  
With Nature's mother-wit, and arts un-  
known before.

Let old Timotheus yield the prize,  
Or both divide the crown ;  
He raised a mortal to the skies,  
She drew an angel down.

#### COME, IF YOU DARE.

"Come, if you dare !" our trumpets  
sound,

"Come, if you dare !" the foes rebound ;  
"We come, we come !"

Says the double beat of the thund'ring  
drum ;

Now they charge on amain,  
Now they rally again.

The gods from above the mad labour be-  
hold,

And pity mankind that will perish for  
gold.

The fainting foemen quit their ground,  
Their trumpets languish in the sound—  
They fly ! they fly !

"Victoria ! Victoria !" the bold Britons  
cry.

Now the victory's won,  
To the lunder we run ;

Then return to our lasses like fortunate  
traders,  
Triumphant with spoils of the vanquish'd  
invaders.

#### FAIR, SWEET, AND YOUNG.

FAIR, sweet, and young, receive a prize  
Reserved for your victorious eyes :  
From crowds, whom at your feet you see,  
Oh, pity and distinguish me !  
As I from thousand beauties more  
Distinguish you, and only you adore.

Your face for conquest was design'd ;  
Your every motion charms my mind ;  
Angels, when you your silence break,  
Forget their hymns to hear you speak ;  
But when at once they hear and view,  
Are loth to mount, and long to stay with  
you.

No graces can your form improve,  
But all are lost unless you love ;  
While that sweet passion you disdain,  
Your veil and beauty are in vain :  
In pity then prevent my fate,  
For after dying all reprieve's too late.

#### MANKIND.

MEN are but children of a larger growth ;  
Our appetites as apt to change as theirs,  
And full as craving too, and full as vain ;  
And yet the soul shut up in her dark  
room,

Viewing so clear abroad, at home sees  
nothing ;

But, like a mole in earth, busy and blind,  
Works all her folly up, and casts it out-  
ward

To the world's open view.

#### HUMAN LIFE.

WHEN I consider life, 'tis all a cheat ;  
Yet, fool'd with hope, men favour the  
accet ;

Trust on, and think to-morrow will re-  
pay :

To-morrow's falser than the former day ;

Lies worse ; and while it says we shall be blest

With some new joys cuts off what we possessed.

Strange cozenage ! None would live past years again ;

Yet all hope pleasure in what yet remain ;

And from the dregs of life think to receive

What the first sprightly running could not give.

#### FREEDOM OF THE SAVAGE.

No man has more contempt than I of breath,

But whence hast thou the right to give me death ?

I am as free as nature first made man,  
Ere the base laws of servitude began,  
When wild in woods the noble savage ran.

#### VENI CREATOR.

CREATOR Spirit, by whose aid  
The world's foundations first were laid,  
Come, visit every pious mind ;  
Come, pour Thy joys on human kind ;  
From sin and sorrow set us free,  
And make Thy temples worthy Thee.

O source of uncreated light,  
The Father's promised Paraclete !  
Thrice holy fount, thrice holy fire,  
Our hearts with heavenly love inspire ;  
Come, and Thy sacred unction bring,  
To sanctify us while we sing.

Plenteous of grace, descend from high,  
Rich in Thy sevenfold energy !  
Thou strength of His Almighty hand,  
Whose power does heaven and earth command ;

Proceeding Spirit, our defence,  
Who dost the gifts of tongues dispense,  
And crown'st Thy gifts with eloquence !

Refine and purge our earthly parts :  
But oh, inflame and fire our hearts !

Our frailties help, our vice control,  
Submit the senses to the soul ;  
And when rebellious they are grown,  
Then lay Thine hand, and hold them down

Chase from our minds the infernal foe,  
And peace, the fruit of love, bestow ;  
And, lest our feet should step astray,  
Protect and guide us in the way.

Make us eternal truths receive,  
And practise all that we believe :  
Give us Thyself, that we may see  
The Father, and the Son, by Thee.

Immortal honour, endless fame,  
Attend the Almighty Father's name !  
The Saviour Son be glorified,  
Who for lost man's redemption died !  
And equal adoration be,  
Eternal Paraclete, to Thee !

#### ADVICE TO POETS.

OBSERVE the language well in all you write,  
And swerve not from it in your loftiest flight.

The smoothest verse and the exactest sense  
Displease us, if ill English give offence ;  
A barbarous phrase no reader can approve ;

Nor bombast, noise, or affectation love.  
In short, without pure language, what you write

Can never yield us profit nor delight.  
Take time for thinking ; never work in haste ;

And value not yourself for writing fast.  
A rapid poem, with such fury writ,  
Shows want of judgment, not abounding wit.

More pleased we are to see a river lead  
His gentle streams along a flowery mead,  
Than from high banks to hear loud torrents roar,

With foamy waters on a muddy shore.  
Gently make haste, of labour not afraid :  
A hundred times consider what you've said :

Polish, repolish, every colour lay,  
And sometimes add, but oftener take away.  
'Tis not enough when swarming faults are  
writ,

That here and there are scatter'd sparks  
of wit ;

Each object must be fix'd in the due place,  
And differing parts have corresponding  
grace :

Till, by a curious art disposed, we find  
One perfect whole, of all the pieces join'd.  
Keep to your subject close in all you  
say ;

Nor for a sounding sentence ever stray.  
The public censure for your writings fear,  
And to yourself be critic most severe.

Fantastic wits their darling follies love ;  
But find you faithful friends that will  
approve,

That on your works may look with careful  
eyes,

And of your faults be zealous enemies :  
Lay by an author's pride and vanity,  
And from a friend a flatterer descry,  
Who seems to like, but means not what  
he says :

Embrace true counsel, but suspect false  
praise.

A sycophant will every thing admire :  
Each verse, each sentence, sets his soul on  
fire :

All is divine ! there's not a word amiss !  
He shakes with joy, and weeps with ten-  
derness,

He overpowers you with his mighty praise.  
Truth never moves in those impetuous  
ways :

A faithful friend is careful of your fame,  
And freely will your heedless errors blame ;  
He cannot pardon a neglected line,  
But verse to rule and order will confine.  
Reprove of words the too affected sound ;  
Here the sense flags, and your expression's  
round,

Your fancy tires, and your discourse grows  
vain,

Your terms improper, make them just and  
plain.

Thus 'tis a faithful friend will freedom  
use ;

But authors, partial to their darling muse,  
Think to protect it they have just pretence,  
And at your friendly counsel take offence.

Said you of this, that the expression's  
flat ?

Your servant, Sir, you must excuse me  
that,

He answers you. This word has here no  
grace,

Pray leave it out : That Sir's the pro-  
perest place.

This turn I like not : 'Tis approved by all.  
Thus, resolute not from one fault to fall,

If there's a syllable of which you doubt,  
'Tis a sure reason not to blot it out,

Yet still he says you may his faults con-  
fute,

And over him your power is absolute :  
But of his feign'd humility take heed ;

'Tis a bait laid to make you hear him read.  
And when he leaves you happy in his  
muse,

Restless he runs some other to abuse,  
And often finds ; for in our scribbling  
times

No fool can want a sot to praise his  
rhymes :

The flattest work has ever in the court  
Met with some zealous ass for its sup-  
port :

And in all times a forward scribbling fop  
Has found some greater fool to cry him  
up.

#### UNDER MILTON'S PICTURE.

THREE Poets, in three distant ages born,  
Greece, Italy, and England did adorn.

The first, in loftiness of thought surpass'd ;  
The next, in majesty ; in both the last.

The force of nature could no further go ;  
To make a third, she join'd the former  
two.

#### THE CHARACTER OF A GOOD PARSON.

A PARISH priest was of the pilgrim train ;  
An awful, reverend, and religious man.

His eyes diffus'd a venerable grace,  
And charity itself was in his face.

Rich was his soul, though his attire was  
poor

(As God hath clothed his own ambassador) ;



For such, on earth, his bless'd Redeemer  
bore.

Of sixty years he seem'd; and well might  
last

To sixty more, but that he lived too fast;  
Refined himself to soul, to curb the sense;  
And made almost a sin of abstinence.

Yet, had his aspect nothing of severe,  
But such a face as promis'd him sincere,  
Nothing reserved or sullen was to see:  
But sweet regards, and pleasing sanctity:  
Mild was his accent, and his action free.  
With eloquence innate his tongue was  
graced;

Though harsh the precept, yet the people  
charm'd.

For, letting down the golden chain from  
high,

He drew his audience upward to the sky:  
And oft with holy hymns he charm'd  
their ears,

(A music more melodious than the  
spheres:)

For David left him, when he went to rest,  
His lyre; and after him he sung the best.  
He bore his great commission in his look:  
But sweetly temper'd awe; and soften'd  
all he spoke.

He preach'd the joys of heaven, and  
pains of hell,

And warn'd the sinner with becoming  
zeal;

But, on eternal mercy loved to dwell.  
He taught the gospel rather than the law;  
And forced himself to drive; but loved to  
draw.

For fear but freezes minds: but love, like  
heat,

Exhales the soul sublime, to seek her  
native seat,

To threats the stubborn sinner oft is hard,  
Wrapp'd in his crimes, against the storm  
prepared;

But, when the milder beams of mercy  
play,

He melts, and throws his cumbrous cloak  
away.

Lightning and thunder (heaven's artillery)  
As harbingers before th' Almighty fly:

Those but proclaim his style, and dis-  
appear;

The stiller sounds succeed, and God is  
there.

[MARTYN PARKER. 1630.]

## YE GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

YE gentlemen of England  
That live at home at ease,  
Ah! little do you think upon  
The dangers of the seas.  
Give ear unto the mariners,  
And they will plainly shew  
All the cares and the fears  
When the stormy winds do blow.  
When the stormy, &c.

If enemies oppose us  
When England is at war  
With any foreign nation,  
We fear not wound or scar;  
Our roaring guns shall teach 'em  
Our valour for to know,  
Whilst they reel on the keel,  
And the stormy winds do blow.  
And the stormy, &c.

Then courage, all brave mariners,  
And never be dismay'd;  
While we have bold adventurers,  
We ne'er shall want a trade:  
Our merchaunts will employ us  
To fetch them wealth, we know;  
Then be bold—work for gold,  
When the stormy winds do blow.  
When the stormy, &c.

[JOHN CHALKHILL 1653.]

## THE PRAISE OF A COUNTRY MAN'S LIFE.

OH, the sweet contentment  
The countryman doth find,  
High trolollie, lollie, lol; high trolollie,  
lee;  
That quiet contemplation  
Possesseth all my mind:  
Then, care away, and wend along with  
me.

For courts are full of flattery,  
As hath too oft been tried,  
High trolollie, lollie, lol; high trolollie  
lee:

# A THOUSAND AND ONE GEMS.

The city full of wantonness,  
And both are full of pride :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

But, oh ! the honest countryman  
Speaks truly from his heart,  
High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;

His pride is in his tillage,  
His horses and his cart :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

Our clothing is good sheep-skins,  
Grey russet for our wives,  
High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;

'Tis warmth and not gay clothing  
That doth prolong our lives :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

The ploughman, though he labour  
hard,  
Yet on the holy day,  
High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;  
No emperor so merrily  
Does pass his time away :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

To recompense our tillage  
The heavens afford us showers,  
High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;  
And for our sweet refreshments  
The earth affords us bowers ;  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

The cuckoo and the nightingale  
Full merrily do sing,  
High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;

And with their pleasant roundelays  
Bid welcome to the spring :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

This is not half the happiness  
The countryman enjoys.

High trololie, lolie, lol ; high trololie,  
lee ;

Though others think they have as  
much,

Yet he that says so lies :  
Then care away, and wend along with  
me.

[ANONYMOUS. 1700.]

## FAIR HELEN OF KIRCONNEL.

I WISH I were where Helen lies !  
Night and day on me she cries ;  
O that I were where Helen lies,  
On fair Kirconnel Lee !

Curst be the heart that thought the  
thought,  
And curst the hand that fired the shot,  
When in my arms burd Helen dropt,  
And died to succour me !

O think na ye my heart was sair,  
When my love dropt down and spak nae  
mair !  
There did she swoon wi' meikle care,  
On fair Kirconnel Lee.

As I went down the water side,  
None but my foe to be my guide,  
None but my foe to be my guide,  
On fair Kirconnel Lee.

I lighted down, my sword did draw,\*  
I hacked him in pieces sma',  
I hacked him in pieces sma',  
For her sake that died for me.

O Helen fair, beyond compare !  
I'll make a garland of thy hair,  
Shall bind my heart for evermair,  
Until the day I die.

O that I were where Helen lies !  
Night and day on me she cries ;  
Out of my bed she bids me rise,  
Says, "Haste, and come to me !"

O Helen fair ! O Helen chaste !  
If I were with thee, I were blest.

Where thou lies low, and takes thy rest,  
On fair Kirconnel Lee.

I wish my grave were growing green,  
A winding sheet drawn o'er my een,  
And I in Helen's arms lying,  
On fair Kirconnel Lee.

I wish I were where Helen lies !  
Night and day on me she cries ;  
And I am weary of the skies,  
For her sake that died for me.

[WILLIAM COLLINS. 1720—1756.]

### THE DEATH OF THE BRAVE.

How sleep the brave, who sink to rest  
By all their country's wishes blest !  
When spring, with dewy fingers cold,  
Returns to deck their hallow'd mould,  
She there shall dress a sweeter sod  
Than fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung,  
By forms unseen their dirge is sung :  
There Honour comes, a pilgrim grey,  
To bless the turf that wraps their clay ;  
And Freedom shall awhile repair,  
To dwell a weeping hermit there.

### ODE TO FEAR.

THOU, to whom the world unknown,  
With all its shadowy shapes is shown ;  
Who seest appall'd th' unreal scene,  
While Fancy lifts the veil between :  
Ah Fear ! ah frantic Fear !  
I see, I see thee near.

I know thy hurried step, thy haggard eye !  
Like thee I start, like thee disorder'd fly ;  
For lo, what monsters in thy train appear !  
Danger, whose limbs of giant mould  
What mortal eye can fix'd behold ?  
Who stalks his round, a hideous form,  
Howling amidst the midnight storm,  
Or throws him on the ridgy steep  
Of some loose hanging rock to sleep :  
And with him thousand phantoms join'd,  
Who prompt to deeds accurs'd the mind :

And those the fiends, who, near allied,  
O'er Nature's wounds and wrecks pre-  
side ;

While Vengeance in the lurid air  
Lifts her red arm, expos'd and bare :  
On whom that ravening brood of Fate,  
Who lap the blood of Sorrow, wait ;  
Who, Fear, this ghastly train can see,  
And look not madly wild, like thee ?

Thou, who such weary lengths has  
pass'd,  
Where wilt thou rest, mad Nymph, at  
last ?

Say, wilt thou shroud in haunted cell,  
Where gloomy Rape and Murder dwell ?  
Or in some hollow'd seat,  
'Gainst which the big waves beat,  
Hear drowning seamen's cries in tempests  
brought,  
Dark pow'r, with shudd'ring meek sub-  
mitted Thought ?

Be mine, to read the visions old,  
Which thy awak'ning bards have told,  
And, lest thou meet my blasted view,  
Hold each strange tale devoutly true ;  
Ne'er be I found, by thee o'eraw'd,  
In that thrice hallow'd eve abroad,  
When ghosts, as cottage-maids believe,  
The pebbled beds permitted leave,  
And goblins haunt, from fire, or fen,  
Or mine, or flood, the walks of men !

O thou whose spirit most possess'd  
The sacred seat of Shakspeare's breast !  
By all that from thy prophet broke,  
In thy divine emotions spoke !  
Hither again thy fury deal,  
Teach me but once like him to feel ;  
His cypress wreath my meed decree,  
And I, O Fear ! will dwell with thee.

### ODE TO EVENING.

If aught of oaten stop, or pastoral song,  
May hope, chaste Eve, to soothe thy  
modest ear,  
Like thy own solemn springs,  
Thy springs, and dying gales ;

O nymph reserved, while now the bright  
hair'd Sun  
Sits in yon western tent, whose cloudy  
skirts,

With braid ethereal wove,  
O'erhang his wavy bed :

Now air is hush'd, save where the weak-  
eyed bat,  
With short shrill shriek flits by on leathern  
wing ;

Or where the beetle winds  
His small but sullen horn,

As oft he rises 'midst the twilight path,  
Against the pilgrim borne in heedless  
hum ;

Now teach me, maid composed  
To breathe some soften'd strain ;

Whose numbers, stealing through thy  
darkening vale

May not unseemly with its stillness suit ;  
As, musing slow, I hail  
Thy genial loved return !

For when thy folding-star arising shows  
His paly circlet, at his warning lamp,  
The fragrant Hours, and Elves  
Who slept in buds the day.

And many a Nymph who wreathes her  
brows with sedge,\*

And sheds the freshening dew, and,  
lovelier still, \*

The pensive Pleasures sweet,  
Prepare thy shadowy car.

Then let me rove some wild and heathy  
scene ;

Or find some ruin 'midst its dreary  
dells,

Whose walls more awful nod  
By thy religious gleams.

Or, if chill blustering winds, or driving  
rain,

Prevent my willing feet, be mine the hut,  
That from the mountain's side,  
Views wilds, and swelling floods,

And hamlets brown, and dim-discover'd  
spires ;

And bears their simple bell, and marks  
o'er all

Thy dewy fingers draw  
The gradual dusky veil.

\* The water-nymphs, Naiads, are so crowned.

While Spring shall pour his showers, as  
oft he wont,  
And bathe thy breathing tresses, meekest  
Eve !

While summer loves to sport  
Beneath thy lingering light ;

While fallow Autumn fills thy lap with  
leaves :

Or Winter yelling through the troublous  
air,

Affrights thy shrinking train,  
And rudely rends thy robes ;

So long, regardful of thy quiet rule,  
Shall Fancy, Friendship, Science, smiling  
Peace,

Thy gentlest influence own,  
And love thy favourite name !

### THE PASSIONS.

WHEN music, heavenly maid, was  
young,

While yet in early Greece she sung,  
The Passions oft to hear her shell,  
Throng'd around her magic cell,  
Exulting, trembling, raging, fainting,  
Possess'd beyond the Muse's paint-  
ing :

By turns they felt the glowing mind  
Disturb'd, delighted, raised, refined ;  
Till once, 'tis said, when all were  
fired,

Fill'd with fury, rapt, inspired,  
From the supporting myrtles round  
They snatch'd their instruments of  
sound ;

And, as they oft had heard apart,  
Sweet lessons of her forceful art,  
Each (for Madness ruled the hour)  
Would prove his own expressive  
power.

First, Fear, his hand, its skill to try,  
Amid the chords bewilder'd laid,  
And back recoil'd, he knew not why,  
E'en at the sound himself had made.

Next, Anger rush'd : his eyes on fire  
In lightnings own'd his secret  
stings : F

In one rude clash he struck the lyre,  
And swept with hurried hand the  
strings.

With woeful measures wan Despair  
Low, sullen sounds his grief be-  
guiled;

A solemn, strange, and mingled air,  
'T was sad by fits, by starts 't was  
wild.

But thou, O Hope, with eyes so fair,  
What was thy delighted measure?  
Still it whisper'd promised pleasure,  
And bade the lovely scenes at dis-  
tance hail!

Still would her touch the strain pro-  
long;

And from the rocks, the woods, the  
vale,

She call'd on Echo still, through all  
the song:

And, where her sweetest theme she  
chose,

A soft responsive voice was heard  
at every close,

And Hope enchanted smiled, and  
waved her golden hair.

And longer had she sung;—but with  
a frown,

Revenge impatient rose:

He threw his blood-stain'd sword, in  
thunder, down;

And, with a withering look,

The war-denouncing trumpet took,

And blew a blast so loud and dread,

Were ne'er prophetic sounds so full of  
woe!

And, ever and anon, he beat

The doubling drum, with furious  
heat;

And though sometimes, each dreary  
pause between,

Dejected Pity, at his side,

Her soul-subduing voice applied,

Yet still he kept his wild unalter'd  
mien,

While each strain'd ball of sight seem'd  
bursting from his head.

Thy numbers, Jealousy, to nought were  
fix'd;

Sad proof of thy distressful state;

Of differing themes the veering song was  
mix'd;

And now it courted Love, now raving  
call'd on Hate,

With eyes up-raised, as one inspired,  
Pale Melancholy sate retired,  
And from her wild sequester'd seat,  
In notes by distance made more sweet,  
Pour'd through the mellow horn her  
pensive soul:

And, dashing soft from rocks around,  
Bubbling runnels join'd the sound;  
Through glades and glooms the mingled  
measure stole,

Or o'er some haunted stream, with  
fond delay,

Round an holy calm diffusing,

Love of peace, and lonely musing,

In hollow murmurs died away,  
But O! how alter'd was its sprightlier  
tone,

When Cheerfulness, a nymph of heal-  
thiest hue,

Her bow across her shoulder flung,

Her buskins gemm'd with morning  
dew,

Blew an inspiring air, that dale and  
thicket rung,

The hunter's call to Faun and Dryad  
known!

The oak-crown'd sisters, and their  
chaste eyed Queen,\*

Satyrs and Sylvan Boys were seen,

Peeping from forth their alleys green:

Brown Exercise rejoiced to hear;

And Sport leapt up and seized his  
beechen spear.

Last came Joy's ecstatic trial:

He, with viny crown advancing,

First to the lively pipe his hand ad-  
dress'd;

But soon he saw the brisk-awakening  
viol.

Whose sweet entrancing voice he  
loved the best;

They would have thought who  
heard the strain

They saw, in Tempé's vale, her  
native maids,

Amidst the festal sounding shades,

\* The Dryads and Diana.

To some unwearied minstrel dancing,  
While as his flying fingers kiss'd the strings,  
Love fram'd with Mirth a gay fantastic round :  
Loose were her tresses seen, her zone unbound ;  
And he, amidst his frolic play,  
As if he would the charming air repay,  
Shook thousand odours from his dewy wings :

O Music ! sphere-descended maid,  
Friend of Pleasure, Wisdom's aid !  
Why, goddess, why, to us denied,  
Lay'st thou thy ancient lyre aside ?  
As, in that loved Athenian bower,  
You learn'd an all-commanding power,  
Thy mimic soul, O Nymph endear'd,  
Can well recall what then it heard ;  
Where is thy native simple heart,  
Devote to Virtue, Fancy, Art ?  
Arise, as in that elder time,  
Warm, energetic, chaste, sublime !  
Thy wonders, in that god-like age,  
Fill thy recording Sister's page—  
'Tis said, and I believe the tale,  
Thy humblest reed could more prevail,  
Had more of strength, diviner rage,  
Than all which charms this laggard age ;  
E'en all at once together found,  
Cecilia's mingled world of sound—  
O bid our vain endeavour cease ;  
Revive the just designs of Greece :  
Return in all thy simple state !  
Confirm the tales her sons relate !

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FROM AN ODE ON THE POPULAR
SUPERSTITIONS OF THE HIGH-
LANDS ; CONSIDERED AS THE
SUBJECT OF POETRY.

ADDRESSED TO MR. JOHN HOME.

THESE, too, thou'lt sing ! for well thy
magic muse
Can soar to the topmost heaven of grandeur
soar ;

Or stoop to wail the swath that is no
more !
Ah, homely swains ! your homeward steps
ne'er lose ;
Let not dank Will * mislead you to the
heath ;
Dancing in murky night, o'er fen and lake,
He glows to draw you downward to
your death,
In his bewitch'd, low, marshy, willow
brake !

What though far off, from some dark dell
espied
His glimmering mazes cheer the excur-
sive sight,
Yet, turn, ye wanderers, turn your steps
aside,
Nor trust the guidance of that faithless
light :
For watchful, lurking, mid th' unrustling
reed, [lies,
At those murk hours the wily monster
And listens off to hear the passing steed,
And frequent round him rolls his sullen
eyes,
If chance his savage wrath may some weak
wretch surprise.

Ah, luckless swain, o'er all unblest'd,
indeed !
Whom late bewilder'd in the dank,
dark fen,
Far from his flocks, and smoking
hamlet, then !
To that sad spot where hums the sedgy
weed :
On him, enraged, the fiend, in angry
mood,
Shall never look with Pity's kind concern,
But instant, furious, raise the whelming
flood
O'er its drown'd banks, forbidding all
return !
Or if he meditate his wish'd escape,
To some dim hill, that seems uprising
near,
To his faint eye, the grim and grisly
shape,

* A fiery meteor, called by various names, such
as Will with the Whisp, Jack with the Lanterna,
&c. It hovers in the air over marshy and fenny
places.

In all its terrors clad, shall wild appear.

Meantime the watery surge shall round
him rise,
Pour'd sudden forth from every swelling
source !

What now remains but tears and hopeless sighs ?

His fear-shook limbs have lost their youthful force,

And down the waves he floats, a pale
and breathless corse !

For him in vain his anxious wife shall wait,

Or wander forth to meet him on his way !

For him in vain at to-fall of the day,
His babes shall linger at th' unclosing gate !

Ah, ne'er shall he return ! alone, if night

Her travell'd limbs in broken slumbers steep !

With drooping willows dress'd, his mournful sprite

Shall wail sad, perchance, her silent sleep :

Then he, perhaps, with moist and watery hand

Shall fondly seem to press her shuddering cheek,

And with his blue swoln face before her stand,

And shivering cold these piteous accents speak :

" Pursue, dear wife, thy daily toils pursue,
At dawn or dusk, industrious as before ;

Nor e'er of me one helpless thought renew,
While I lie weltering on the osier shore,

Drown'd by the Kelpie's * wrath, nor e'er
shall aid thee more ! "

Unbounded is thy range ; with varied skill

Thy muse may, like those feathery tribes which spring

From their rude rocks, extend her skirting wing

Round the moist marge of each cold Hebrid isle,

* The water fiend.

To that hoar pile * which still its ruins shows ;

In whose small vaults a pigmy-folk is found,

Whose bones the delver with his spade upthrows,

And culls them, wondering, from the hallow'd ground

Or thither, † where beneath the showery west,

The mighty kings of three fair realms are laid ;

Once foes, perhaps, together now they rest,

No slaves revere them, and no wars invade :

Yet frequent now, at midnight solemn hour,

The rifted mounds their yawning cells unfold,

And forth the monarchs stalk with sovereign power,

In pageant robes, and wreathed with sheeny gold,

And on their twilight tombs aerial council hold.

But, oh ! o'er all, forget not Kilda's race,

On whose bleak rocks, which brave the wasting tides,

Fair Nature's daughter, Virtue, yet abides.

Go ! just, as they, their blameless manners trace !

Then to my ear transmit some gentle song,

Of those whose lives are yet sincere and plain,

Their bounded walks the rugged cliffs along,

And all their prospect but the wintry main.

With sparing temperance, at the needful time,

They drain the scented spring : or, hunger-press'd,

* One of the Hebrides is called the Isle of Pigmies ; it is reported that several miniature bones of the human species have been dug up in the ruins of a chapel there.

† Icolmkill, one of the Hebrides, where near sixty of the ancient Scottish, Irish, and Norwegian kings are interred.

Along th' Atlantic rock, undreading
climb,
And of its eggs despoil the solan's nest.*
Thus, blest in primal innocence they
live,
Sufficed and happy with that frugal fare
Which tasteful toil and hourly danger
give :
Hard is their shallow soil, and bleak and
bare ;
Nor ever vernal bee was heard to
murmur there !

Nor need'st thou blush that such false
themes engage
Thy gentle mind, of fairer stores pos-
sess'd ;
For not alone they touch the village
breast,
But fill'd, in elder time, the historic
page.
There, Shakspeare's self, with every
garland crown'd,
Flew to those fairy climes his fancy sheen,
In musing hour, his wayward sisters
found,
And with their terrors dress'd the magic
scene.
From them he sung, when mid his bold
design,

Before the Scot, afflicted, and aghast !
The shadowy kings of Banquo's fated
line
Through the dark cave in gloomy pageant
pass'd. *
Proceed ! nor quit the tales which,
simply told,
Could once so well my answering bosom
pierce ;
Proceed, in forceful sounds, and colour
bold,
The native legends of thy land rehearse ;
To such adapt thy lyre, and suit thy
powerful verse.

In scenes like these, which, daring to
depart
From sober truth, are still to nature
true,

* An aquatic bird like a goose, on the eggs of
which the inhabitants of St. Kilda, another of
the Hebrides, chiefly subsist.

And call forth fresh delight to fancy's
view,
Th' heroic muse employ'd her Tasso's
heart !
How have I trembled, when, at Tan-
cred's stroke,
Its gushing blood the gaping cypress
pour'd !
When each live plant with mortal accents
spoke,
And the wild blast upheaved the vanish'd
sword ?

How have I sat, when piped the pensive
wind,
To hear his harp by British Fairfax strung !
Prevailing poet ! whose undoubting
mind
Believed the magic wonders which he
sung ;
Hence, at each sound, imagination
glows !
Hence, at each picture, vivid life starts
here !
Hence his warm lay with softest sweet-
ness flows !
Melting it flows, pure, murmuring, strong,
and clear,
And fills th' impassion'd heart, and wins
the harmonious ear !

DIRGE IN CYMBELINE.

To fair Fidele's grassy tomb
Soft maids and village hinds shall bring
Each opening sweet of earliest bloom,
And rifle all the breathing spring.

No wailing ghost shall dare appear
To vex with shrieks this quiet grove ;
But shepherd lads assemble here,
And melting virgins own their love.

No wither'd witch shall here be seen,
No goblins lead their nightly crew ;
But female fays shall haunt the green,
And dress thy grave with pearly dew.

The redbreast oft at evening hours
Shall kindly lend his little aid,
With hoary moss and gather'd flowers
To deck the ground where thou art laid.

When howling winds and beating rain
In tempests shake the sylvan cell,
Or 'midst the chase upon the plain,
The tender thought on thee shall dwell.

Each lonely scene shall thee restore,
For thee the tear be duly shed ;
Beloved till life can charm no more,
And mourn'd till Pity's self be dead.

ODE TO MERCY.

STROPHE.

O THOU, who sit'st a smiling bride
By Valour's arm'd and awful side,
Gentlest of sky-born forms, and best
adored ;

Who oft with songs, divine to hear,
Win'st from his fatal grasp the spear,
And hid'st in wreaths of flowers his
bloodless sword !

Thou who, amidst the deathful field,
By god-like chiefs alone beheld,
Oft with thy bosom bare art found,
Pleading for him the youth who sinks to
ground :

See, Mercy, see, with pure and loaded
hands,

Before thy shrine my country's genius
stands,

And decks thy altar still, though pierced
with many a wound !

ANTISTROPHE.

When he whom ev'n our joys provoke,
The fiend of nature join'd his yoke,
And rush'd in wrath to make our isle his
prey ;

Thy form, from out thy sweet abode,
O'ertook him on his blasted road,
And stopp'd his wheels, and look'd his
rage away.

I see recoil his sable steeds,

That bore him swift to savage deeds,

Thy tender melting eyes they own ;

O maid, for all thy love to Britain shown,

Where Justice bars her iron tower,

To thee we build a roseate bower,

Thou, thou shalt rule our queen, and
share our monarch's throne !

ON THE DEATH OF THOMSON.

In yonder grave a Druid lies

Where slowly winds the stealing wave !
The year's best sweets shallauteous
rise,

To deck its poet's sylvan grave !

In yon deep bed of whispering reeds

His airy harp shall now be laid,

That he whose heart in sorrow bleeds,

May love through life the soothing
shade.

Then maids and youths shall linger here,

And, while its sounds at distance swell,

Shall sadly seem in pity's ear

To hear the woodland pilgrim's knell.

Remembrance oft shall haunt the shore

When Thames in summer wreaths is
drest,

And oft suspend the dashing oar

To bid his gentle spirit rest !

And oft as ease and health retire

To breezy lawn, or forest deep,

The friend shall view yon whitening spire,

And 'mid the varied landscape weep.

But thou, who own'st that earthy bed,

Ah ! what will every dirge avail ?

Or tears which love and pity shed,

That mourn beneath the gliding sail !

Yet lives there one, whose heedless eye

Shall scorn thy pale shrine glimmering
near ?

With him, sweet bard, may fancy die,

And joy desert the blooming year.

But thou, lorn stream, whose sullen tide

No sedge-crown'd sisters now attend,

Now waft me from the green hill's side

Whose cold turf hides the buried friend !

And see, the fairy valleys fade,

Dun night has veil'd the solemn view !

Yet once again, dear parted shade,

Meek nature's child, again adieu !

The genial meads assign'd to bless

Thy life, shall mourn thy early doom !

Their hands and shepherd girls shall dress
With simple hands thy rural tomb.

Long, long, thy stone, and pointed clay
Shall melt the musing Briton's eyes,
O! vales, and wild woods, shall he say,
In yonder grave your Druid lies!

[WILLIAM SHENSTONE. 1714—1763.]

THE SCHOOL-MISTRESS.

IN every village mark'd with little spire,
Embower'd in trees and hardly known to
fame,
There dwells, in lowly shed and mean
attire,
A matron old, whom we Schoolmistress
name,
Who boasts unruly brats with birch to
tame;
They grieved sore, in piteous durance
pent,
Aw'd by the power of this relentless
dame,
And oft times, on vagaries idly bent,
For unkempt hair, or task unconn'd, are
sorely shent.

* * * *

Near to this dome is found a patch so
green,
On which the tribe their gambols do dis-
play,
And at the door imprisoning board is
seen,
Lest weakly wights of smaller size
should stray,
Eager, perdie, to bask in sunny day!
The noises intermix'd, which thence re-
sound,
Do learning's little tenement betray,
Where sits the dame, disguis'd in look
profound,
And eyes her fairy throng, and turns her
wheel around.

Her cap, far whiter than the driven snow,
Emblem right meet of decency does
yield;
Her apron dy'd in grain, as blue, I trow,
As is the harebell that adorns the field;

And in her hand, for sceptre, she does
wield

'Tway birchen sprays, with anxious fear
entwin'd;
With dark distrust, and sad repentance
fill'd,
And steadfast hate, and sharp affliction
join'd,
And fury uncontroul'd, and chastisement
unkind.

* * * *

A russet stole was o'er her shoulders
thrown,
A russet kirtle fenc'd the nipping air;
'Twas simple russet, but it was her own;
'Twas her own country bred the flock so
fair;
'Twas her own labour did the fleece pre-
pare;
And, sooth to say, her pupils rang'd
around,
Through pious awe did term it passing
rare,
For they in gaping wonderment abound,
And think, no doubt, she been the
greatest wight on ground.

Albeit, ne flattery did corrupt her truth,
Ne pompous title did debauch her ear,
Goody, good-woman, gossip, n'aunt, for-
sooth,
Or dame, the sole additions she did hear;
Yet these she challeng'd, these she held
right dear;
Ne would' esteem him act as mought
behave
Who should not honour'd eld with these
revere;
For never title yet so mean could prove,
But there was eke a mind which did that
title love.

* * * *

Herbs too she knew, and well of each
could speak
That in her garden sipp'd the silvery dew,
Where no vain flower disclos'd a gaudy
streak,
But herbs for use and physic, not a few
Of gray renown, within those borders
grew;
The tufted basil, pun-provoking thyme,

Fresh baum, and marygold of cheerful
hue,

The lowly gill, that never dares to climb,
And more I fain would sing, disdaining
here to rhyme.

Yet euphrasy may not be left unsung,
That gives dim eyes to wander leagues
around,

And pungent radish, biting infant's tongue,
And plantain ribb'd, that heals the
reaper's wound,

And marjoram sweet, in shepherd's posy
found,

And lavender, whose spikes of azure
bloom

Shall be, erewhile, in arid bundles bound,
To lurk amidst the labours of her loom,
And crown her kerchiefs clean with
mickle rare perfume.

* * * * *

Here oft the dame, on sabbath's decent
eve,

Hymned such psalms as Sternhold forth
did mete ;

If winter 'twere, she to her hearth did
cleave,

But in her garden found a summer-seat :
Sweet melody ! to hear her then repeat
How Israel's sons, beneath a foreign king,
While taunting foe-men did a song en-
treat,

All for the nonce untuning every string,
Upon their useless lyres—small heart had
they to sing.

For she was just, and friend to virtuous
love,

And pass'd much time in truly virtuous
deed ;

And in those elfins' ears would oft de-
plore

The times when Truth by Popish rage
did bleed,

And tortuous death was true Devotion's
meed ;

And simple Faith in iron chains did
mourn,

That n' ould on wooden image place her
creed ;

And lawny saints in smouldering flames
did burn :

Ah ! dearest Lord ! forefend, thilk days
should e'er return.

* * * * *

Right well she knew each temper to
descry,

To thwart the proud, and the submit to
raise,

Some with vile copper prize exalt on
high,

And some entice with pittance small of
praise,

And other some with baleful sprig she
'frays :

Ev'n absent, she the reins of power doth
hold,

While with quaint arts the giddy crowd
she sways ;

Forewarn'd, if little bird their pranks be-
hold,

'Twill whisper in her ear, and all the
scene unfold.

~~~~~

### THE SCHOOL-LET OUT.

BUT now Dan Phœbus gains the middle  
sky,

And Liberty unbars her prison-door,  
And like a rushing torrent out they fly,

And now the grassy cirque han cover'd  
o'er

With boisterous revel-rout and wild up-  
roar ;

A thousand ways in wanton rings they  
run,

Heaven shield their short-liv'd pastime, I  
implore !

For well may freedom, erst so dearly  
won,

Appear to British elf more gladsome than  
the sun.

Enjoy, poor imps ! enjoy your sportive  
trade,

And chase gay flies, and cull the fairest  
flowers,

For when my bones in grass-green sods  
are laid,

For never may ye taste more careless  
hours

In knightly castles, or in ladies' bowers.  
O vain to seek delight in earthly thing !

But most in courts, where proud Ambition towers ;  
Deluded wight ! who weens fair peace can spring  
Beneath the pompous dome of kesar or of king.

See in each sprite some various bent appear !

These rudely carol, most incondite lay ;  
Those sauntering on the green, with jocund leer

Salute the stranger passing on his way ;  
Some builden fragile tenements of clay,  
Some to the standing lake their courses bend,

With pebbles smooth at duck and drake to play ;

Thilk to the huckster's savoury cottage tend,

In pastry kings and queens th' allotted mite to spend.

Here as each season yields a different store,

Each season's stores in order ranged been,  
Apples with cabbage-net y'cover'd o'er,  
Galling full sore th' unmoney'd wight, are seen,

And gooseberry, clad in livery red or green ;

And here of lovely dye the catherine pear,

Fine pear ! as lovely for thy juice I ween !

O may no wight e'er pennyless come there,

Lest smit with ardent love he pine with hopeless care !

See ! cherries here, ere cherries yet abound,

With thread so white in tempting posies tied,

Scattering like blooming maid their glances round,

With pamper'd look draw little eyes aside,

And must be bought, though penury be-tide ;

The plum all azure, and the nut all brown,  
And here, each season, do those cakes abide,

Whose honour'd names th' inventive city own,  
Rendering through Britain's isle Salopia's praises known.

[MARK AKENSIDE. 1721—1770.]

# THE MINGLED PAIN AND PLEASURE ARISING FROM VIRTUOUS EMOTIONS.

## *Pleasures of the Imagination.*

BEHOLD the ways  
Of Heaven's eternal destiny to man,  
For ever just, benevolent, and wise :  
That Virtue's awful steps, how'er pursued

By vexing Fortune and intrusive Pain,  
Should never be divided from her chaste,  
Her fair attendant, Pleasure. Need I urge  
Thy tardy thought through all the various round

Of this existence, that thy soft'ning soul  
At length may learn what energy the hand  
Of Virtue mingles in the bitter tide  
Of passion swelling with distress and pain,

To mitigate the sharp with gracious drops  
Of cordial Pleasure ? Ask the faithful youth,

Why the cold urn of her whom long he lov'd

So often fills his arms ; so often draws  
His lonely footsteps, at the silent hour,  
To pay the mournful tribute of his tears ?  
O ! he will tell thee, that the wealth of worlds

Should ne'er seduce his bosom to forego  
That sacred hour, when, stealing from the noise

Of Care and Envy, sweet Remembrance soothes,

With Virtue's kindest looks, his aching breast,

And turns his tears to rapture.—Ask the crowd,

Which flies impatient from the village walk

To climb the neighb'ring cliffs, when far below

The cruel winds have hurl'd upon the coast

Some hapless bark ; while sacred Pity  
melts

The gen'ral eye, or Terror's icy hand  
Smites their distorted limbs and horrent  
hair ;

While ev'ry mother closer to her breast  
Catches her child, and, pointing where  
the waves

Foam through the shatter'd vessel, shrieks  
aloud,

As one poor wretch, that spreads his  
piteous arms

For succour, swallow'd by the roaring  
surge,

As now another, dash'd against the rock,  
Drops lifeless down. O ! deemest thou  
indeed

No kind endearment here by Nature giv'n  
To mutual Terror and Compassion's  
tears ?

No sweetly-smelling softness, which at-  
tracts,

O'er all that edge of pain, the social  
pow'rs

To thus their proper action and their  
end ?—

Ask thy own heart ; when, at the mid-  
night hour,

Slow through that studious gloom thy  
pausing eye,

Led by the glimm'ring taper, moves  
around

The sacred volumes of the dead, the songs  
Of Grecian bards, and records writ by  
Fame

For Grecian heroes, where the present  
pow'r

Of heav'n and earth surveys th' immortal  
page,

E'en as a father blessing, while he reads  
The praises of his son ; if then thy soul

Spurning the yoke of these inglorious  
days,

Mix in their deeds and kindle with their  
flame :

Say, when the prospect blackens on thy  
view,

When rooted from the base, heroic states  
Mourn in the dust, and tremble at the  
frown

Of curs'd Ambition ;—when the pious  
Of youths that fought for freedom and  
their sires

Lie side by side in gore ;—when ruffian  
Pride

Usurps the throne of Justice, turns the  
pompe

Of public pow'r the majesty of rule,  
The sword, the laurel, and the purple  
robe,

To slavish empty pageants, to adorn  
A tyrant's walk, and glitter in the eyes

Of such as bow the knee ;—when honour'd  
urns

Of patriots and of chiefs, the awful bust  
And storied arch, to glut the coward rage

Of regal envy, strew the public way  
With hallow'd ruins !—when the muse's  
haunt,

The marble porch where Wisdom, wont  
to talk

With Socrates or Tully, hears no more,  
Save the hoarse jargon of contentious

monks,  
Or female Superstition's midnight pray'r ;—

When ruthless Rapine from the hand of  
Time

Tears the destroying scythe, with surer  
blow

To sweep the works of Glory from their  
base ;

Till Desolation o'er the grass-grown  
street

Expands his raven wings, and up the  
wall,

Where senates once the pride of monarchs  
doom'd,

Hisses the gliding snake through hoary  
weeds,

That clasp the mould'ring column :—thus  
defac'd,

Thus widely mournful when the prospect  
thrills

Thy beating bosom, when the patriot's  
tear

Starts from thine eye, and thy extended  
arm

In fancy hurls the thunderbolt of Jove,  
To fire the impious wreath on Philip's  
brow,

Or dash Octavius from the trophied car ;—  
Say, does thy secret soul repine to taste

The big distress ? or wouldst thou then  
exchange

Those heart-ennobling sorrows for the lot  
Of him who sits amid the gaudy herd

Of mute barbarians bending to his nod  
And bears aloft his gold-invested front,  
And says within himself, "I am a king,  
"And wherefore should the clam'rous  
voice of Woe

"Intrude upon mine ear?"—The baleful  
dregs

Of these late ages, this inglorious draught  
Of servitude and folly, have not yet,  
Blest be th' Eternal Ruler of the world !  
Defil'd to such a depth of sordid shame  
The native honours of the human soul,  
Nor so effac'd the image of its sire.

### ON TASTE.

SAY, what is Taste, but the internal  
pow'rs

Active and strong, and feelingly alive  
To each fine impulse? a discerning sense  
Of decent and sublime, with quick disgust  
From things deform'd, or disarrang'd, or  
gross

In species? This nor gems, nor stores of  
gold,

Nor purple state, nor culture can bestow,  
But God alone, when first his active hand  
Imprints the sacred bias of the soul  
He, Mighty Parent! wise and just in all,  
Free as the vital breeze, or light of  
heav'n,

Reveals the charms of Nature Ask the  
swain

Who journeys homeward from a sum-  
mer-day's

Long labour, why, forgetful of his toils  
And due repose, he lingers to behold  
The sunshine gleaming as through amber  
clouds

O'er all the western sky! Full soon, I  
ween,

His rude expression, and untutor'd airs,  
Beyond the pow'r of language, will unfold  
The form of Beauty smiling at his heart,  
How lovely! how commanding! But  
though Heav'n

In every breast bath sown these early  
seeds

Of love and admiration, yet in vain,  
Without fair Culture's kind parental aid,  
Without enlivening suns and genial  
show'rs,

And shelter from the blast, in vain we  
nope

The tender plant should rear its blooming  
head,

Or yield the harvest promis'd in its spring.  
Nor yet will ev'ry soil with equal stores  
Repay the tiller's labour, or attend

His will, obsequious, whether to produce  
The olive or the laurel. Diff'rent minds  
Incline to diff'rent objects one pursues  
The vast alone, the wonderful, the wild;  
Another sighs for harmony and grace,  
And gentlest beauty. Hence when light-  
ning fires

The arch of heav'n, and thunders rock  
the ground,

When furious whirlwinds rend the howl-  
ing air,

And Ocean, groaning from his lowest  
bed,

Heaves his tempestuous billows to the  
sky,

Amid the mighty uproar, while below  
The nations tremble, Shakspeare looks  
abroad

From some high cliff, superior, and enjoys  
The elemental war But Waller longs,  
All on the margin of some flow'ry stream,  
To spread his careless limbs, amid the  
cool

Of plantane shades, and to the list'ning  
deer

The tale of slighted vows and Love's  
disdain

Resounds, soft warbling, all the livelong  
day.

Consenting Zephyr sighs, the weeping  
rill

Joins in his plaint, melodious; mute the  
groves,

And hill and dale with all their echoes  
mourn.

Such and so various are the tastes of men.

### THE PLEASURES OF A CULTI- VATED IMAGINATION.

O BLEST of Heav'n, whom not the languid  
songs

Of Luxury, the siren! not the bribes  
Of sordid Wealth, nor all the gaudy  
spoils

Of pageant Honour, can seduce to leave  
Those everblooming sweets, which from  
the store

Of Nature fair Imagination culls,  
To charm th' enliven'd soul ! What  
though not all

Of mortal offspring can attain the height  
Of envied life ; though only few possess  
Patrician treasures, or imperial state :  
Yet Nature's ~~cap~~ <sup>care</sup> to all her children just,  
With richer treasures and an ampler state  
Endows at large whatever happy man  
Will deign to use them. His the city's  
pomp,

The rural honours his. Whate'er adorns  
The princely dome, the column, and the  
arch,

The breathing marbles, and the sculptur'd  
gold,

Beyond the proud possessor's narrow  
claim,

His tuneful breast enjoys. For him the  
Spring

Distils her dew, and from the silken gem  
Its lucid leaves unfolds ; for him the hand  
Of Autumn tinges every fertile branch  
With blooming gold, and blushes like the  
morn.

Each passing hour sheds tribute from her  
wing ;

And still new beauties meet his lonely  
walk,

And loves unfelt attract him. Not a  
breeze

Flies o'er the meadow, not a cloud im-  
bibes

The setting sun's effulgence, not a strain  
From all the tenants of the warbling  
shade

Ascend, but whence his bosom can par-  
take

Fresh pleasure unproved.

[ANONYMOUS. 1720.]

### WALY, WALY, BUT LOVE BE BONNY.

O WALY, waly up the bank,  
And waly, waly down the brae,  
And waly, waly yon burn-side,  
Where I and my love went to gae.

I lean'd my back unto an aik,  
And thought it was a trusty tree,  
But first it bow'd, and syne it brak',  
Sae my true love did lightly me.

O waly, waly, but love is bonny,  
A little time while it is new,  
But when 'tis auld, it waxeth cauld,  
And fades away like morning dew.  
Oh ! wherefore should I busk my head ?  
Or wherefore should I kame my hair ?  
For my true love has me forsook,  
And says he'll never love me mair.

Now Arthur-Seal shall be my bed,  
The sheets shall ne'er be fill'd by me,  
Saint Anton's well shall be my drink,  
Since my true love's forsaken me.  
Martinmas wind, when wilt thou blaw,  
And shake the green leaves off the tree ?  
Oh, gentle death ! when wilt thou come ?  
For of my life I am weary.

'Tis not the frost that freezes fell,  
Nor blowing snows inclemency ;  
'Tis not sic cauld that makes me cry,  
But my love's heart grown cauld to me.  
When we came in by Glasgow town,  
We were a comely sight to see ;  
My love was clad in the black velvet,  
And I mysel' in cramasie.

But had I wist before I kiss'd  
That love had been so ill to win,  
I'd lock'd my heart in a case of gold,  
And pinn'd it with a silver pin.  
And oh ! if my young babe were born,  
And set upon the nurse's knee,  
And I mysel' were dead and gane,  
Wi' the green grass growing over me !

[ANONYMOUS. 1720.]

### LADY ANNE BOTHWELL'S LAMENT.

BALOW, my babe ! lie still and sleep,  
It grieves me sore to hear thee weep :  
If thou'lt be silent, I'll be glad,  
Thy mourning makes my heart full sad.  
Balow, my babe ! thy mother's joy !  
Thy father bred me great annoy.

Balow, my babe ! lie still and sleep,  
It grieves me sore to hear thee  
weep

Balow, my darling ! sleep awhile,  
And when thou wak'st then sweetly  
smile ;

But smile not as thy father did,  
To cozen maids ; nay, God forbid !  
For in thine eye his look I see,  
The tempting look that ruin'd me.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

When he began to court my love,  
And with his sugar'd words to move,  
His tempting face, and flatt'ring cheer,  
That time to me did not appear ;  
But now I see that cruel he  
Cares neither for his babe nor me.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

Farewell, farewell, thou falsest youth  
That ever kiss a woman's mouth !  
Let never any after me  
Submit unto thy courtesy :  
For, if they do, oh ! cruel thou  
Wilt her abuse, and care not how.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

I was too cred'ulous at the first  
To yield thee all a maiden durst :  
Thou swore for ever true to prove,  
Thy faith unchang'd, unchang'd thy love ;  
But quick as thought the change is  
wrought,  
Thy love's no more, thy promise nought.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

I wish I were a maid again,  
From young men's flattery I'd refrain ;  
For now unto my grief I find  
They all are perjurd and unkind :  
Bewitching charms bred all my harms,  
Witness my babe lies in my arms.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

I take my fate from bad to worse,  
That I must needs be now a nurse,  
And lull my young son on my lap !  
From me, sweet orphan, take the pap.  
Balow, my child ! thy mother mild  
Shall wail as from all bliss exiled.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

Balow, my babe ! weep not for me,  
Whose greatest grief's for wronging  
thee,

Nor pity her deserved smart  
Who can blame none but her fond  
heart ;

For, too soon trusting latest finds  
With fairest tongues are falsest minds.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

Balow, my babe ! thy father's fled,  
When he the thriftless son has play'd :  
Of vows and oaths forgetful, he  
Preferr'd the wars to thee and me ;  
But now perhaps thy curse and mine  
Make him eat acorns with the swine.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

But curse not him ; perhaps now he,  
Stung with remorse, is blessing thee :  
Perhaps at death, for who can tell  
Whether the Judge of heaven and hell,  
By some proud foe has struck the blow,  
And laid the dear deceiver low ?  
Balow, my babe, &c.

I wish I were into the bounds,  
Where he lies smother'd in his wounds,  
Repeating, as he pants for air,  
My name, whom once he call'd his  
fair !

No woman's yet so fiercely set,  
But she'll forgive, tho' not forget.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

If linen lacks, for my love's sake.  
Then quickly to him would I make  
My smock, once for his body meet,  
And wrap him in that winding-sheet.  
Ah me ! how happy had I been,  
If he had ne'er been wrapp'd therein.  
Balow, my babe, &c.

Balow, my babe ! I'll weep for thee ;  
Tho' soon, alack, thou'lt weep for me !  
Thy griefs are growing to a sum,  
God grant thee patience when they  
come :

Born to sustain thy mother's shame  
A hapless fate, a bastard's name.

Balow, my babe ! lie still and sleep,  
It grieves me sore to hear thee  
weep.



[WM. HAMILTON OF BANGOUR. 1704—1754.]

## THE BRAES OF YARROW

"Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny  
bride,

Busk ye, busk ye, my winsome marrow,  
Busk ye, busk ye, my bonny bonny  
bride,

And let us leave the braes of Yarrow."

"Where got ye that bonny bonny bride,  
Where got ye that winsome marrow?"

"I got her where I durst not well be  
seen,

Pu'ing the birks on the braes of Yarrow"

"Weep not, weep not, my bonny bonny  
bride,

Weep not, weep not, my winsome mar-  
row,

Nor let thy heart lament to leave  
Pu'ing the birks on the braes of Yarrow"

"Why does she weep, thy bonny bonny  
bride?"

Why does she weep thy winsome mar-  
row?

And why dare ye nae mair well be seen  
Pu'ing the birks on the braes of Yar-  
row?"

"Lang must she weep, lang must she,  
must she weep,

Lang must she weep with dule and  
sorrow,

And lang must I nae mair well be seen  
Pu'ing the birks on the braes of Yarrow.

"For she has tint her lover, lover dear,  
Her lover dear, the cause of sorrow;  
And I have slain the comeliest swain  
That ever pu'ed birks on the braes of  
Yarrow.

"Why runs thy stream, O Yarrow,  
Yarrow, reid?

Why on thy braes heard the voice of  
sorrow?

And why yon melancholous weeds,  
Hung on the bonny birks of Yarrow?

"What's yonder floats on the rueful,  
rueful flood?

What's yonder floats? Oh, dule and  
sorrow!

Oh! 'tis the comely swain I slew  
Upon the doleful braes of Yarrow!

"Wash, oh, wash his wounds, his wounds  
in tears,

His wounds in tears of dule and sorrow,  
And wrap his limbs in mourning weeds,  
And lay him on the braes of Yarrow!

"Then build, then build, ye sisters,  
sisters sad,

Ye sisters sad, his tomb with sorrow,  
And weep around in woeful wise,  
His helpless fate on the braes of Yarrow.

"Curse ye, curse ye, his useless, useless  
shield,

My arm that wrought the deed of sorrow,  
The fatal spear that pierc'd his breast,  
His comely breast on the braes of Yar-  
row.

"Did I not warn thee not to, not to love,  
And warn from fight? but to my sorrow,  
Too rashly bold, a stronger arm,  
Thou met'st, and fell on the braes of  
Yarrow.

"Sweet smells the birk, green grows,  
green grows the grass,

Yellow on Yarrow braes the gowan,  
Fair hangs the apple frae the rock,  
Sweet is the wave of Yarrow flowan.

"Flows Yarrow sweet? as sweet, as  
sweet flows Tweed,

As green its grass, its gowan as yellow,  
As sweet smells on its braes the birk,  
The apple from its rocks as mellow.

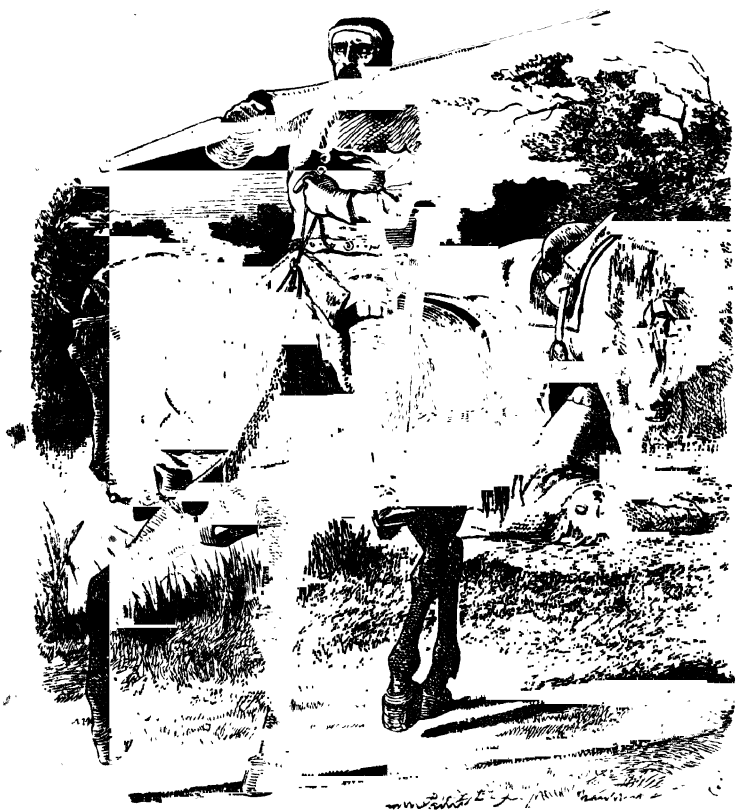
"Fa'r was thy love, fair, fair indeed thy  
love,

In flow'ry bands thou didst him fetter;  
Tho' he was fair, and well belov'd again,  
Than me he never lov'd thee better.

"Busk ye, then busk, my bonny bonny  
bride,

Busk ye, then busk, my winsome marrow,  
Busk ye, and lo'e me on the banks of  
Tweed,

And think nae mair on the braes of  
Yarrow."



THE BRACES OF YARROW (WM. HAMILTON OF BANGOUR).

"Curse ye, curse ye, his useless, useless shield,  
My arm, that wrought the deed of sorrow,  
The fatal spear that pier'd his breast.  
His comely breast on the braces of Yarrow."—P. 136.



"How can I bask a bonny bonny bride,  
How can I bask a winsome marrow?  
How lo'e him on the banks of Tweed  
That slew my love on the braes of Yarrow!

"Oh, Yarrow fields! may never, never  
rain,  
Nor dew thy tender blossoms cover,  
For there was vilely kill'd my love,  
My love as he had not been a lover!

"The boy put on his robes, his robes of  
green,  
His purple vest, 'twas my ain sewing:  
Ah! wretched me, I little, little knew,  
He was in these to meet his ruin.

"The boy took out his milk-white, milk-  
white steed,  
Unheeding of my dule and sorrow,  
But ere the toofal of the night,  
He lay a corpse on the braes of Yarrow.

"Much I rejoic'd that woeful, woeful  
day,  
I sung, my voice the woods returning;  
But lang ere night the spear was floun  
That slew my love, and left me mourning.

"What can my barbarous, barbarous  
father do,  
But with his cruel rage pursue me?  
My lover's blood is on thy spear;  
How canst thou, barbarous man, then woo  
me?

"My happy sisters may be, may be  
proud;  
With cruel and ungentle scoffing,  
May bid me seek on Yarrow's braes  
My lover nailed in his coffin.

"My brother Douglas may upbraid,  
And strive with threat'ning words to move  
me;  
My lover's blood is on thy spear,  
How canst thou ever bid me love thee?

"Yes, yes, prepare the bed, the bed of  
love,  
With bridal sheets my body cover;  
Unbar, ye bridal maids, the door,  
Let in the expected husband lover!

"But who the expected husband, husband  
is?

His hands, methinks, are bath'd in  
slaughter.

Ah me! what ghastly spectre's yon,  
Comes, in his pale shroud, bleeding, after?

"Pale as he is, here lay him, lay him  
down,  
Oh, lay his cold head on my pillow!  
Take aff, take aff these bridal weeds,  
And crown my careful head with yellow.

"Pale tho' thou art, yet best, yet best  
belov'd,

Oh, could my warmth to life restore thee,  
Ye 't he all night between my breasts:  
No youth lay ever there before thee.

"Pale, indeed, oh, lovely, lovely youth!  
Forgive, forgive so foul a slaughter,  
And lie all night between my breasts,  
No youth shall ever lie there after."

Return, return, oh, mournful, mournful  
bride!

Return and dry thy useless sorrow:  
Thy lover heeds naught of thy sighs,  
He lies a corpse on the braes of Yarrow!

[ANONYMOUS 1726]

## WHY, LOVELY CHARMER.

*The Hope.*

WHY, lovely charmer, tell me why,  
So very kind, and yet so shy?  
Why does that cold forbidding air  
Give damps of sorrow and despair?  
Or why that smile my soul subdue,  
And kindle up my flames anew?

In vain you strive, with all your art,  
By turns to fire and freeze my heart:  
When I behold a face so fair,  
So sweet a look, so soft an air,  
My ravish'd soul is charm'd all o'er,—  
I cannot love thee less or more.

[ANONYMOUS. 1726.]

## UNHAPPY LOVE.

I SEE she flies me everywhere,  
 Her eyes her scorn discover :  
 But what's her scorn, or my despair,  
 Since 'tis my fate to love her ?  
 Were she but kind whom I adore,  
 I might live longer, but not love her more.

[ANONYMOUS. 1726.]

TILL DEATH I SYLVIA MUST  
ADORE.

TILL death I Sylvia must adore ;  
 No time my freedom can restore ;  
 For though her rigour makes me smart,  
 Yet when I try to free my heart,  
 Straight all my senses take her part.

And when against the cruel maid  
 I call my reason to my aid ;  
 By that, alas ! I plainly see  
 That nothing lovely is but she ;  
 And reason captivates me more.  
 Than all my senses did before.

[ALEXANDER POPE. 1688—1744.]

## THE MESSIAH.

A SACRED ECLOGUE : IN IMITATION  
OF VIRGIL'S POLLIO.

YE nymphs of Solyma ! begin the song :  
 To heavenly themessublimier strains belong.  
 The mossy fountains, and the sylvan  
 shades,  
 The dreams of Pindus and the Aonian  
 maids,  
 Delight no more—O Thou my voice  
 inspire  
 Who touched Isaiah's hallowed lips with  
 fire !

Ray\* into future times, the bard begun :  
 A Virgin shall conceive, a Virgin bear a  
 Son !

From Jesse's root behold a branch arise,  
 Whose sacred flower with fragrance fills  
 the skies :

The ethereal spirit o'er its leaves shall  
 move,  
 And on its top descends the mystic dove.  
 Ye heavens ! from high the dewy nectar  
 pour,  
 And in soft silence shed the kindly shower !  
 The sick and weak the healing plant shall  
 aid,  
 From storms a shelter, and from heat a  
 shade.  
 All crimes shall cease, and ancient fraud  
 shall fail ;  
 Returning Justice lift aloft her scale ;  
 Peace o'er the world her olive wand ex-  
 tend,  
 And white-robed Innocence from heaven  
 descend.  
 Swift fly the years, and rise the expected  
 morn !  
 Oh spring to light, auspicious Babe, be  
 born !  
 See Nature hastes her earliest wreaths to  
 bring,  
 With all the incense of the breathing  
 spring :  
 See lofty Lebanon his head advance,  
 See nodding forests on the mountains  
 dance :  
 See spicy clouds from lowly Saron rise,  
 And Carmel's flowery top perfumes the  
 skies !  
 Hark ! a glad voice the lonely desert  
 cheers ;  
 Prepare the way ! a God, a God appears :  
 A God, a God ! the vocal hills reply,  
 Therocks proclaim the approaching Deity.  
 Lo, earth receives him from the bending  
 skies !  
 Sink down, ye mountains, and, ye valleys,  
 rise ;  
 With heads declined, ye cedars, homage  
 pay ;  
 Be smooth, ye rocks ; ye rapid floods,  
 give way ,  
 The Saviour comes ! by ancient bards fore  
 told !  
 Hear him, ye deaf, and all ye blind, be-  
 hold !  
 He from thick films shall purge the visual  
 ray,  
 And on the sightless eyeball pour the day :  
 'Tis he the obstructed paths of sound shall  
 clear,

And bid new music charm the unfolding  
ear :

The dumb shall sing, the lame his crutch  
forego,

And leap exulting like the bounding roe.  
No sigh, no murmur the wide world shall  
hear,

From every face he wipes off every tear.  
In adamant chains shall Death be  
bound,

And Hell's grim tyrant feel the eternal  
wound.

As the good shepherd tends his fleecy care,  
Seeks freshest pasture and the purest  
air,

Explores the lost, the wandering sheep  
directs,

By day o'ersees them, and by night pro-  
tects,

The tender lambs he raises in his arms,  
Feeds from his hand, and in his bosom  
warms ;

Thus shall mankind his guardian care  
engage,

The promised Father of the future age.  
No more shall nation against nation rise,

Nor ardent warriors meet with hateful  
eyes,

Nor fields with gleaming steel be covered  
o'er,

The brazen trumpets kindle rage no  
more ;

But useless lances into scythes shall bend,  
And the broad falchion in a ploughshare  
end.

Then palaces shall rise ; the joyful son  
Shall finish what his short-lived sire  
began ;

Their vines a shadow to their race shall  
yield,

And the same hand that sow'd, shall reap  
the field.

The swain, in barren deserts with surprise  
See lilies spring, and sudden verdure rise ;  
And start, amidst the thirsty wilds, to  
hear

New falls of water murmuring in his ear.  
On rifted rocks, the dragon's late abodes,  
The green reed trembles, and the bulrush  
nods.

Waste sandy valleys, once perplex'd with  
thorn,

The spiry fir and shapely box adorn ;

To leafless shrubs the flowering palms  
succeed,

And odorous myrtle to the noisome  
weed.

The lambs with wolves shall graze the  
verdant mead,

And boys in flowery bands the tiger  
lead ;

The steer and lion at one crib shall  
meet,

And harmless serpents lick the pilgrim's  
feet.

The smiling infant in his hand shall take  
The crested basilisk and speckled snake,  
Pleased the green lustre of the scales  
survey,

And with their forked tongue shall inno-  
cently play.

Rise, crown'd with light, imperial Salem,  
rise !

Exalt thy towery head, and lift thy eyes !  
See, a long race thy spacious courts adorn ;

See future sons, and daughters yet unborn,  
In crowding ranks on every side arise,

Demanding life, impatient for the skies !  
See barbarous nations at thy gates attend,

Walk in thy light, and in thy temple bend ;  
See thy bright altars throng'd with pro-  
strate kings,

And heap'd with products of Sabeian  
springs,

For thee Idume's spicy forests blow,  
And seeds of gold in Ophir's mountains  
glow.

See heaven its sparkling portals wide dis-  
play,

And break upon thee in a flood of day.  
No more the rising sun shall gild the  
morn,

Nor evening Cynthia fill her silver horn ;  
But lost, dissolved in thy superior rays,

One tide of glory, one unclouded blaze  
O'erflow thy courts ; the Light himself  
shall shine

Reveal'd, and God's eternal day be thine !  
The seas shall waste, the skies in smoke  
decay,

Rocks fall to dust, and mountains melt  
away ;

But fix'd his word, his saving power  
remains ;

Thy realm for ever lasts, thy own MESSIAH  
reigns !

## ODE ON ST. CECILIA'S DAY.

DESCEND, ye Nine ! descend and sing,  
 The breathing instruments inspire ;  
 Wake into voice each silent string,  
 And sweep the sounding lyre !  
 In a sadly pleasing strain  
 Let the warbling lute complain :  
 Let the loud trumpet sound,  
 Till the roofs all around  
 The shrill echoes rebound :  
 While in more lengthen'd notes and slow  
 The deep, majestic, solemn organs blow.  
 Hark ! the numbers soft and clear  
 Gently steal upon the ear ;  
 Now louder, and yet louder rise,  
 And fill with spreading sounds the  
 skies ;  
 Exulting in triumph now swell the bold  
 notes,  
 In broken air, trembling, the wild music  
 floats  
 Till, by degrees, remote and small,  
 The strains decay,  
 And melt away  
 In a dying, dying fall.

\* By Music, minds an equal temper know,  
 Not swell too high, nor sink too low ;  
 If in the brief tumultuous joys arise,  
 Music her soft, assuasive voice applies ;  
 Or, when the soul is press'd with cares,  
 Exalts her in enliv'ning airs :  
 Warriors she fires with animated sounds,  
 Pours balm into the bleeding lover's  
 wounds ;  
 Melancholy lifts her head,  
 Morpheus rouses from his bed,  
 Sloth unfolds her arms and wakes,  
 List'ning Envy drops her snakes,  
 Intestine war no more our Passions wage,  
 And giddy Factions hear away their rage.

But when our country's cause provokes to  
 arms,  
 How martial music ev'ry bosom warms !  
 So when the first bold vessel dar'd the  
 seas,  
 High on the stern the Thracian rais'd his  
 strain,  
 While Argo saw her kindred trees  
 Descend from Pelion to the main,  
 Transported demigods stood round,

And men grew heroes at the sound,  
 Inflam'd with glory's charms :  
 Each chief his sev'nfold shield display'd,  
 And half unsheath'd the shining blade :  
 And seas, and rock, and skies rebound ;  
 To arms ! to arms ! to arms !

But when through all the infernal bounds,  
 Which flaming Phlegethon surrounds,  
 Love, strong as Death, the poet led  
 To the pale nations of the dead,  
 What sounds were heard,  
 What scenes appear'd,  
 O'er all the dreary coasts ?  
 Dreadful gleams,  
 Dismal screams,  
 Fires that glow,  
 Shrieks of wo,  
 Sullen moans,  
 Hollow groans,  
 And cries of tortured ghosts,  
 But hark ! he strikes the golden lyre ;  
 And see ! the tortured ghosts respire,  
 See, shady forms advance !  
 Thy stone, O Sisyphus, stands still,  
 Ixion rests upon his wheel,  
 And the pale spectres dance !

The Furies sink upon their iron beds,  
 And snakes uncurl'd hang list'ning round  
 their heads.  
 By the streams that ever flow,  
 By the fragrant winds that blow  
 O'er th' Elysian flow'rs ;  
 By those happy souls who dwell  
 In yellow meads of asphodel,  
 Or amaranthine bow'rs ;  
 By the heroes' armed shades,  
 Glitt'ring through the gloomy glades,  
 By the youths that died for love,  
 Wand'ring in the myrtle grove ;  
 Restore, restore Eurydice to life :  
 O, take the Husband, or return the Wife !  
 He sung, and Hell consented  
 To hear the poet's prayer :  
 Stern Proserpine relented,  
 And gave him back the fair :  
 Thus song could prevail  
 O'er Death and o'er Hell,  
 A conquest how hard, and how glorious !  
 Though Fate had fast bound her,  
 With Styx nine times round her,  
 Yet Music and Love were victorious.

But soon, too soon, the lover turns his  
eyes,

Again she falls—again she dies—she  
dies!

How wilt thou now the fatal sisters  
move?

No crime was thine, if 'tis no crime to  
love.

Now under hanging mountains,  
Beside the falls of fountains,  
Or where Hebrus wanders,  
Rolling in meanders,

All alone,  
Unheard, unknown,  
He makes his moan;  
And calls her ghost,

For ever, ever, ever lost!  
Now with Furies surrounded,  
Despairing, confounded,  
He trembles, he glows,  
Amidst Rhodope's snows.

See, wild as the winds, o'er the desert he  
flies;

Hark! Hæmus resounds with the Bac-  
chanals' cries—Ah see, he dies!

Yet ev'n in death Eurydice he sung,  
Eurydice still trembled on his tongue,

Eurydice the woods,

Eurydice the floods,

Eurydice the rocks, and hollow mountains  
rung.

Music the fiercest grief can charm,  
And fate's severest rage disarm,  
Music can soften pain to ease,  
And make despair and madness please,  
Our joys below it can improve,  
And antedate the bliss above  
Thus the divine Cecilia found,

And to her Maker's praise confin'd the  
sound.

When the full organ joins the tuneful  
qure,

Th' immortal pow'rs incline their ear  
Borne on the swelling notes our souls  
aspire,

While solemn airs improve the sacred  
fire;

And angels lean from Heav'n to hear.  
Of Orpheus now no more let poets tell,  
To bright Cecilia greater pow'r is giv'n;  
His numbers rais'd a shade from Hell,  
Here lift the soul to Heav'n.

### EASE IN WRITING.

TRUE ease in writing comes from art, not  
chance,

As those move easiest who have learned  
to dance.

'Tis not enough no harshness gives  
offence,

The sound must seem an echo to the  
sense.

Soft is the strain when Zephyr gently  
blows,

And the smooth stream in smoother  
rumburs flows;

But when loud surges lash the sounding  
shore,

The hoarse rough verse should like the  
torrent roar;

When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight  
to throw,

The line too labours and the words move  
slow,

Not so when swift Camilla scours the  
plain,

Flies o'er the unbending corn, and skims  
along the main,

Hear how Timotheus' varied lays sur-  
prise,

And bid alternate passions fall and rise!  
While at each change, the son of Libyan  
Jove

Now burns with glory and then melts  
with love,

Now his fierce eyes with sparkling fury  
glow,

Now sighs steal out, and tears begin to  
flow:

Persians and Greeks like turns of nature  
found,

And the world's victor stood subdued by  
sound!

The power of music all our hearts allow,  
And what Timotheus was, is Dryden now.

### ON VIRTUE.

*Essay on Man.*

KNOW thou this truth, enough for man  
to know,

"Virtue alone is Happiness below?"  
The only point where human bliss stands  
still,



And tastes the good without the fall  
to ill ;

Where only Merit constant pay receives,  
Is blest in what it takes, and what it  
gives ;

The joy unequall'd if its end it gain,  
And if it lose attended with no pain :  
Without satiety, though e'er so bless'd,  
And but more relish'd as the more dis-  
tress'd ;

The broadest mirth unfeeling Folly wears  
Less pleasing far than Virtue's very tears :  
Good, from each object, from each place  
acquir'd,

For ever exercis'd yet never tir'd ;  
Never elated while one man's oppress'd ;  
Never dejected while another's bless'd :  
And where no wants, no wishes can re-  
main,

Since but to wish more Virtue is to gain.  
See the sole bliss Heav'n could on all  
bestow !

Which who but feels can taste, but thinks  
can know ;

Yet poor with fortune, and with learning  
blind,

The bad must miss ; the good, untaught,  
will find :

Slave to no sect, who takes no private  
road,

But looks through Nature, up to Nature's  
God ;

Pursues that chain which links th' im-  
mense design,

Joins heaven and earth, and mortal and  
divine ;

Sees, that no being any bliss can know,  
But touches some above, and some below ;  
Learns, from this union of the rising  
whole,

The first, last purpose of the human soul ;  
And knows where Faith, Law, Morals, all  
began,

All end in Love of God, and Love of  
Man.

For him alone Hope leads from goal to  
goal,

And opens still, and opens on his soul ;  
Till lengthen'd on to Faith, and uncon-  
fined,

It pours the bliss that fills up all the  
mind.

He sees why Nature plants in man alone

Hope of known bliss, and Faith in bliss  
unknown

(Nature, whose dictates to no other kind  
Are given in vain, but what they seek  
they find).

Wise is her present ; she connects in this  
His greatest Virtue with his greatest  
Bliss ;

At once his own bright prospects to be  
blest,

And strongest motive to assist the rest.  
Self-love thus push'd to social, to di-  
vine,

Gives thee to make thy neighbour's bless-  
ing thine.

Is this too little for the boundless heart ?  
Extend it, let thy enemies have part :

Grasp the whole worlds of Reason, Life,  
and Sense,

In one close system of Benevolence :  
Happier as kinder, in whate'er degree,  
And height of Bliss but height of Charity.

God loves from whole to parts : but  
human soul

Must rise from individual to the whole.  
Self-love but serves the virtuous mind to

wake,  
As the small pebble stirs the peaceful  
lake ;

The centre mov'd, a circle straight suc-  
ceeds,

Another still, and still another spreads ;  
Friend, parent, neighbour, first it will

embrace ;  
His country next ; and next all human

race ;  
Wide and more wide th' o'erflowings of  
the mind

Take ev'ry creature in of ev'ry kind ;  
Earth smiles around, with boundless

bounty blest,  
And Heav'n beholds its image in his  
breast.

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THE PRESENT CONDITION OF MAN VINDICATED.

HEAV'N from all creatures hides the book
of Fate,

All but the page prescrib'd, their present
state ;

From brutes what men, from men what
spirits know,

Or who could suffer being here below ?
The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
Had he thy reason, would he skip and play ?
Pleas'd to the last, he crops the flow'ry
food,

And licks the hand just rais'd to shed his
blood.

O blindness to the future ! kindly giv'n,
That each may fill the circle marked by
Heav'n ;

Who sees with equal eye, as God of all,
A hero perish, or a sparrow fall ;
Atoms or systems into ruin hurl'd,
And now a bubble burst, and now a
world.

Hope humbly, then, with trembling
pinions soar ;
Wait the great teacher, Death ; and God
adore.

What future bliss, he gives not thee to
know,
But gives that Hope to be thy blessing
now.

Hope springs eternal in the human breast ;
Man never IS, but always TO BE blest :
The soul, uneasy and confined from home,
Rests and expatiates in a life to come.

Lo, the poor Indian ! whose untutor'd
mind

Sees God in clouds, and hears him in the
wind ;

His soul proud Science never taught to
[stray
Far as the solar walk, or milky way ;
Yet simple Nature to his hope has giv'n,
Behind the cloud-topp'd hill, a humbler
heav'n ;

Some safer world in depth of woods em-
brac'd,

Some happier island in the wat'ry waste,
Where slaves once more their native land
behold,

No fiends torment, nor Christians thirst
for gold.

To BE, contents his natural desire,
He asks no angel's wing, no seraph's fire :
But thinks, admitted to that equal sky,
His faithful dog shall bear him company.

Go, wiser thou ! and in thy scale of
sense

Weigh thy opinion against Providence ;
Call imperfection what thou fanciest such,
Say, here he gives too little, there too
much ;

Destroy all creatures for thy sport or gust,
Yet cry, if Man's unhappy, God's unjust ;
If man alone engross not Heav'n's high
care,

Alone made perfect here, immortal there :
Snatch from his hand the balance and the
rod,

Re-judge his justice, be the God of God.
In Pride, in reasoning Pride, our error
lies ;

All quit their sphere, and rush into the
skies,

Pride still is aiming at the blest abodes,
Men would be Angels, Angels would be
Gods.

Aspiring to be Gods, if Angels fell,
Aspiring to be Angels, Men rebel :
And who but wishes to revert the laws
Of Order sins against th' Eternal Cause.



ON THE ORDER OF NATURE.

SEE through this air, this ocean, and th'is
earth,

All matter quick, and bursting into birth.
Above, how high progressive life may go !
Around, how wide ! how deep extend
below !

Vast chain of Being ! which from God
began,

Natures ethereal, human, angel, man,
Beast, bird, fish, insect, what no eye can
see,

No glass can reach ; from Infinite to thee,
From thee to Nothing. On superior
pow'rs

Were we to press, inferior might on ours ;
Or in the full creation leave a void,
Where one step broken the great scale's
destroy'd ;

From Nature's chain whatever link you
strike,

Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain
alike.

And, if each system in gradation roll
Alike essential to th' amazing whole,
The least confusion but in one, not all
That system only, but the whole must fall.
Let earth unbalanc'd from her orbit fly,
Planets and suns run lawless through the
sky ;

Let ruling angels from their spheres be
hurl'd,
Being on being wreck'd, and world on
world,
Heav'n's whole foundations to the centre
nod,
And nature tremble to the throne of God :
All this dread order break—from whom ?
for thee ?

Vile worm !—Oh madness ! pride ! im-
piety !

What if the foot, ordain'd the dust to
tread,

Or hand to toil, aspir'd to be the head ?
What if the head, the eye, or ear, repin'd
To serve mere engines to the ruling mind ?
Just as absurd for any part to claim

To be another, in this gen'ral frame :
Just as absurd to mourn the task or pains,
The great directing Mind of All ordains,
All are but parts of one stupendous
whole,

Whose body Nature's, and God the Soul
That chang'd through all, and yet in all
the same,

Great in the earth, as in th' ethereal
frame,

Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
Glow's in the stars, and blossoms in the
trees,

Lives through all life, extends through all
extent,

Spreads undivided, operates unspent,
Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal
part,

As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart ;
As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
As the rapt seraph that adores and burns,
To him no high, no low, no great, no
small ; [all]

He fills, he bounds, connects, and equals
Cease, then, nor Order Imperfection
name :

Our proper bliss depends on what we
blame.

Know thy own point : This kind, this due
degree

Of blindness, weakness, Heav'n bestows
on thee

Submit.—In this, or any other sphere,
Secure to be as blest as thou canst bear :
Safe in the hand of one disposing Pow'r,
Or in the natal, or the mortal hour.

All Nature is but Art, unknown to thee ;
All Chance, Direction which thou canst
not see

All Discord, Harmony not understood ;
All partial Evil, universal Good :
And, spite of Pride, in erring Reason's
spite,

One truth is clear, WHATEVER IS, IS
RIGHT.

THE ORIGIN OF SUPERSTITION AND TYRANNY.

WHO first taught souls enslav'd and
realms undone,

Th' enormous faith of many made for
one,

That proud exception to all Nature's
laws,

T' invert the world, and counterwork its
cause ?

Force first made conquest, and that con-
quest, law ;

Till Superstition taught the tyrant awe,
Then shared the tyranny, then lent it aid,
And Gods of conquerors, slaves of sub-
jects made

She, 'midst the lightning's blaze, and
thunder's sound,

When rock'd the mountains, and when
ground'd the ground,

She taught the weak to bend, the proud
to pray,

To pow'rs unseen, and mightier far than
they :

She, from the rending earth and bursting
skies,

Saw Gods descend, and fiends infernal
rise :

Here fixed the dreadful, there the blest
abodes ;

Fear made her Devils, and weak Hope
her Gods,

Gods partial, changeful, passionate, un-
just,

Whose attributes were Rage, Revenge, or
Lust ;

Such as the souls of cowards might con-
ceive,

And, formed like tyrants, tyrants would
believe.

Zeal, then, not Charity, became the guide;
 And Hell was built on spite, and Heav'n on pride.
 Then sacred seem'd th' ethereal vault no more;
 Altars grew marble then, and reek'd with gore;
 Then first the flamen tasted living food;
 Next his grim idol, smear'd with human blood;
 With Heav'n's own thunders shook the world below,
 And play'd the God an engine on his foe.
 So drives Self-love, through just and through unjust,
 To one Man's pow'r, ambition, lucre, lust:
 The same Self-love, in all, becomes the cause
 Of what restrains him, Government and Laws;
 For what one likes, if others like as well,
 What serves one will, when many wills rebel?
 How shall he keep, what sleeping or awake
 A weaker may surprise, a stronger take?
 His safety must his liberty restrain:
 All join to guard, what each desires to gain.
 Forced into virtue thus by self-defence,
 Even kings learn'd justice and benevolence;
 Self-love forsook the path it first pursu'd,
 And found the private in the public good.
 'Twas then the studious head or gen'rous mind,
 Follow'r of God, or friend of human-kind,
 Poet or Patriot, rose but to restore
 The faith and moral Nature gave before;
 Relum'd her ancient light, not kindled new;
 If not God's image, yet his shadow drew;
 Taught pow'r's due use to people and to kings,
 Taught nor to slack nor strain its tender strings,
 The less or greater set so justly true,
 That touching one must strike the other too;
 Till jarring int'rests of themselves create

Th' according music of a well-mix'd state.
 Such is the world's great harmony, that springs
 From order, union, full consent of things:
 Where small and great, where weak and mighty, made
 To serve, not suffer, strengthen, not invade:
 More pow'ful each as needful to the rest,
 And, in proportion as it blesses, bless:
 Draw to one point, and to one centre bring
 Beast, Man, or Angel, Servant, Lord, or King.
 For Forms of Government let fools contest;
 Whate'er is best administer'd is best:
 For Modes of Faith let graceless zealots fight,
 His can't be wrong whose life is in the right;
 In Faith and Hope the world will disagree,
 But all Mankind's concern is Charity:
 All must be false that thwart this one great end,
 And all of God, that bless mankind or mend.
 Man, like the gen'rous vine, supported, lives;
 The strength he gains is from the embrace he gives.
 On their own axis as the planets run,
 Yet make at once their circle round the sun;
 So two consistent motions act the soul,
 And one regards itself, and one the whole.
 Thus God and Nature link'd the gen'ral frame,
 And bade Self-love and Social be the same.

ON HAPPINESS.

O HAPPINESS! our being's end and aim!
 Good, Pleasure, Ease, Content! whate'er thy name;
 That something still, which prompts the eternal sigh;
 For which we bear to live, or dare to die;

Which still so near us, yet beyond us
 lies,
 O'erlook'd, seen double by the fool, and
 wise,
 Plant of celestial seed ! if dropp'd below,
 Say, in what mortal soil thou deign'st to
 grow ?
 Fair op'ning to some court's propitious
 shine,
 Or deep with diamonds in the flaming
 mine ?
 Twined with the wreaths Parnassian
 laurels yield,
 Or reaped in iron harvests of the field ?
 Where grows ?—where grows it not ? If
 vain our toil,
 We ought to blame the culture, not the
 soil :
 Fix'd to no spot is happiness sincere,
 'Tis nowhere to be found, or ev'rywhere ;
 'Tis never to be bought, but always free,
 And, fled from monarchs, St. John
 dwells with thee.
 Ask of the Learn'd the way, the
 Learn'd are blind,
 This bids to serve, and that to shun man-
 kind :
 Some place the bliss in action, some in
 ease,
 Those call it Pleasure, and Contentment
 these :
 Some, sunk to beasts, find pleasure end in
 pain,
 Some, swell'd to Gods, confess e'en virtue
 vain :
 Or indolent, to each extreme they fall,
 To trust in ev'rything, or doubt of all.
 Who thus define it say they, more or less
 Than this, that Happiness is Happiness ?
 Take Nature's path, and mad Opinion's
 leave, [ceive ;
 All states can reach it, and all heads con-
 Obvious her goods, in no extremes they
 dwell ;
 There needs but thinking right, and
 meaning well ;
 And mourn our various portions as we
 please,
 Equal is common sense and common ease.
 Remember, Man, " The Universal Cause
 Acts not by partial, but by gen'ral laws ;"
 makes what Happiness we justly
 all

Subsist not in the good of one, but all.
 There's not a blessing individuals find,
 But some way leans and hearkens to the
 kind ;
 No Bandit fierce, no Tyrant mad with
 pride,
 No cavern'd Hermit rests self-satisfied :
 Who most to shun or hate Mankind pre-
 tend,
 Seek an admirer, or would fix a friend :
 Abstract what others feel, what others
 think,
 All pleasures sicken, and all glories sink :
 Each has his share ; and who would more
 obtain
 Shall find the pleasure pays not half the
 pain.
 Order is Heav'n's first law ; and this con-
 fess'd,
 Some are, and must be, greater than the
 rest ;
 More rich, more wise : but who infers
 from hence [sense.
 That such are happier shocks all common
 Heav'n to mankind impartial we confess,
 If all are equal in their Happiness :
 But mutual wants this Happiness increase ;
 All Nature's diff'rence keeps all Nature's
 peace.
 Condition, circumstance, is not the thing ;
 Bliss is the same in subject or in king ;
 In who obtain defence, or who defend ;
 In him who is, or him who finds a friend :
 Heav'n breathes through ev'ry member of
 the whole
 One common blessing, as one common
 soul.
 But Fortune's gifts if each alike possess'd,
 And all were equal, must not all contest ?
 If then to all men Happiness was meant,
 God in externals could not place Content.
 Fortune her gifts may variously dispose,
 And these be happy call'd, unhappy
 those ;
 But Heav'n's just balance equal will ap-
 pear,
 While those are placed in Hope, and
 these in Fear ;
 Not present good or ill, the joy or curse,
 But future views of better or of worse.
 O, sons of earth, attempt ye still to rise,
 By mountains pil'd on mountains, to the
 skies ?

Heav'n still with laughter the vain toil
surveys,
And buries madmen in the heaps they
raise.

Know, all the good that individuals
find,
Or God and Nature meant to mere man-
kind,
Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of
sense,
Lie in three words, Health, Peace, and
Competence.

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THE MAN OF ROSS.

—ALL our praises why should Lords  
engross?

Rise, honest Muse! and sing the Man of  
Ross:

Pleas'd Vaga echoes through her winding  
bounds,  
and rapid Severn hoarse applause re-  
sounds.

Who hung with woods yon mountain's  
sultry brow?

From the dry rock who bade the waters  
flow?

Not to the skies in useless columns tost,  
Or in proud falls magnificently lost,  
But clear and artless, pouring through the  
plain

Health to the sick, and solace to the  
swain.

Whose causeway parts the vale with shady  
rows?

Whose seats the weary traveller repose?  
Who taught that Heav'n-directed spire to  
rise?

"The Man of Ross," each lisping babe  
replies.

Behold the market-place with poor o'er-  
spread!

The Man of Ross divides the weekly  
bread:

He feeds yon almshouse, neat, but void  
of state,

Where age and want sit smiling at the  
gate:

Him portion'd maids, apprentic'd orphans  
bless,

The young who labour, and the old who  
rest.

Is any sick? The Man of Ross relieves,  
Prescribes, attends, the med'cine makes,  
and gives.

Is there a variance? Enter but his door,  
Balk'd are the courts, and contest is no  
more.

Despairing quacks with curses fled the  
place,

And vile attorneys, now a useless race.  
Thrice happy man! enabled to pursue  
What all so wish, but want the power to  
do!

O say! what sums that gen'rous hand  
supply?

What mines, to swell that boundless  
charity?

Of debts and taxes, wife and children  
clear,

This man possess'd—five hundred pounds  
a year.

Blush, Grandeur, blush! proud Courts  
withdraw your blaze!

Ye little stars! hide your diminished  
rays.

~~~~~  
ELEGY ON THE DEATH OF AN
UNFORTUNATE LADY.

WHAT beck'ning ghost, along the moon-
light shade,

Invites my steps, and points to yonder
glade?

'Tis she!—but why that bleeding bosom
gor'd?

Why dimly gleams the visionary sword?
O, ever beauteous! ever friendly! tell,

Is it in Heav'n a crime to love too well?
To bear too tender, or too firm a heart,

To act a Lover's or a Roman's part?
Is there no bright reversion in the sky,

For those who greatly think or bravely
die?

Why bade ye else, ye pow'rs! her soul
aspire

Above the vulgar flight of low desire?
Ambition first sprung from your blest
abodes,

The glorious fault of angels and of gods:
Thence to their images on earth it flows,

And in the breasts of kings and heroes
glows.

Most souls, 'tis true, but peep out once an age,

Dull sullen pris'ners in the body's cage :
Dim lights of life, that burn a length of years

Useless, unseen, as lamps in sepulchres ;
Like Eastern kings, a lazy state they keep,
And, close confin'd to their own palace,
sleep.

From these perhaps (ere Nature bade
her die)

Fate snatch'd her early to the pitying sky.
As into air the purer spirits flow,
And se'rate from their kindred dregs
below ;

So flew the soul to its congenial place,
Nor left one virtue to redeem her race.

But thou, false guardian of a charge too
good,
Thou, mean deserter of thy brother's
blood !

See on these ruby lips the trembling
breath,
These cheeks now fading at the blast of
death.

Cold is that breast which warmed the
world before,
And those love-darting eyes must roll no
more.

Thus, if Eternal justice rules the ball,
Thus shall your wives, and thus your
children fall :

On all the line a sudden vengeance
waits,

And frequent hearses shall besiege your
gates :

There passengers shall stand, and point-
ing say
(While the long fun'rals blacken all the
way),

Lo ! these were they, whose souls the
Furies steel'd,

And curs'd with hearts unknowing how to
yield.

Thus unlamented pass the proud away,
The gaze of fools, and pageant of a day !
So perish all, whose breast ne'er learn'd
to glow

For others' good, or melt at others' wo.

What can atone (O, ever-injur'd shade !)
Thy fate unpitied, and thy rites unpaid ?
No friend's complaint, no kind domestic
tear

Pleas'd thy pale ghost, or grac'd thy
mournful bier ;

By foreign hands thy dying eyes were
clos'd,

By foreign hands thy decent limbs com-
pos'd,

By foreign hands thy humble grave
adorn'd,

By strangers honour'd, and by strangers
mourn'd.

What though no friends in sable weeds
appear,

Grieve for an hour, perhaps, then mourn
a year,

And bear about the mockery of wo
To midnight dances, and the public show :

What though no weeping Loves thy ashes
grace,

Nor polish'd marble emulate thy face ;
What though no sacred earth allow thee
room,

Nor hallow'd dirge be mutter'd o'er thy
tomb ;

Yet shall thy grave with rising flow'rs be
dress'd,

And the green turf lie lightly on thy
breast :

There shall the morn her earliest rays
bestow,

There the first roses of the year shall
blow.

While angels with their silver wings o'er-
shade

The ground, now sacred by thy relics
made.

So peaceful rests, without a stone, a
name,

What once had beauty, titles, wealth, and
fame.

How lov'd, how honour'd once, avails
thee not,

To whom related, or by whom begot ;
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,

'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall
be !

Poets themselves must fall like those
they sung,

Deaf the prais'd ear, and mute the tune-
ful tongue.

Ev'n he, whose soul now melts in mourn-
ful lays,

Shall shortly want the gen'rous tear he
pays ;

Then from his closing eyes thy form shall
part,
And the last pang shall tear thee from his
heart ;
Life's idle business at one gasp be o'er,
The Muse forgot, and thou belov'd no
more !

PROLOGUE TO CATO.

To wake the soul by tender strokes of
art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the
heart,
To make mankind, in conscious virtue
bold,
Live o'er each scene, and be what they
behold :
For this the tragic Muse first trod the
stage,
Commanding tears to stream through
every age ;
Tyrants no more their savage nature
kept,
And foes to virtue wondered how they
wept.
Our author shuns by vulgar springs to
move
The hero's glory, or the virgin's love ;
In pitying love, we but our weakness
show,
And wild ambition well deserves its woe.
Here tears shall flow from a more gene-
rous cause,
Such tears as patriots shed for dying
laws :
He bids your breasts with ancient ardour
rise,
And calls forth Roman drops from
British eyes.
Virtue confess'd in human shape he
draws,
What Plato thought, and godlike Cato
was :
No common object to your sight displays,
But what with pleasure Heaven itself sur-
veys,
A brave man struggling in the storms of
fate,
And greatly falling, with a falling state.
While Cato gives his little senate laws,
What bosom beats not in his country's
cause ?

Who sees him act, but envies every deed !
Who hears him groan and does not wish
to bleed ?
Even when proud Cæsar, 'midst trium-
phal cars,
The spoils of nations, and the pomp of
wars,
Ignobly vain, and impotently great,
Show'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in
state ;
As her dead father's reverend image
pass'd
The pomp was darken'd, and the day
o'ercast ;
The triumph ceas'd, tears gush'd from
every eye ;
The world's great victor pass'd unheeded
by ;
Her last good man dejected Rome
adored,
And honour'd Cæsar's less than Cato's
sword.
Britons, attend : be worth like this
approv'd,
And show you have the virtue to be
mov'd.
With honest scorn the first famed Cato
view'd
Rome learning arts from Greece, whom
she subdued ;
Your scene precariously subsists too long
On French translation, and Italian song.
Dare to have sense yourselves ; assert the
stage,
Be justly warm'd with your own native
rage :
Such plays alone should win a British
ear,
As Cato's self had not disdain'd to hear.

ELOISA'S PRAYER FOR ABELARD.

MAY one kind grave unite each hapless
name,
And graft my love immortal on thy fame !
Then, ages hence, when all my woes are
o'er,
When this rebellious heart shall beat no
more :

If ever chance two wandering lovers
brings
To Paraclete's white walls and silver
springs,
O'er the pale marble shall they join their
heads,
And drink the falling tears each other
sheds;
Then sadly say, with mutual pity mov'd,
"O may we never love as these have
lov'd!"
From the full choir, when loud hosannas
rise,
And swell the pomp of dreadful sacrifice,
Amid that scene if some relenting eye
Glance on the stone where our cold relics
lie,
Devotion's self shall steal a thought from
Heaven,
One human tear shall drop, and be for-
given.
And sure if fate some future bard shall
join
In sad similitude of griefs to mine,
Condemn'd whole years in absence to
deplore,
And image charms he must behold no
more;
Such if there be, who loves so long, so
well;
Let him our sad, our tender story tell!
The well-sung woes will soothe my pen-
sive ghost;
He best can paint them who shall feel
them most.

FAME.

WHAT's fame? a fancy'd life in others'
breath,
A thing beyond us, ev'n before our death.
Just what you hear, you have; and what's
unknown,
The same (my lord) if Tully's, or your
own.
All that we feel of it begins and ends
In the small circle of our foes or friends;
To all beside as much an empty shade
An Eugene living as a Cæsar dead;
Alike or when, or where, they shone, or
shine,
Or on the Rubicon, or on the Rhine.

A wit's a feather, and a chief's a rod;
An honest man's the noblest work of
God.
Fame but from death a villain's name can
save,
As justice tears his body from the grave;
When what t' oblivion better were re-
sign'd,
Is hung on high to poison half mankind.
All fame is foreign, but of true desert;
Plays round the head, but comes not to
the heart:
One self-approving hour whole years out-
weighs
Of stupid starers, and of loud huzzas;
And more true joy Marcellus exil'd feels
Than Cæsar with a senate at his heels.

THE DYING CHRISTIAN TO HIS SOUL.

VITAL spark of heavenly flame!
Quit, oh quit this mortal frame:
Trembling, hoping, lingering, flying,
Oh the pain, the bliss of dying!
Cease, fond nature, cease thy strife,
And let me languish into life.

Hark! they whisper; angels say,
"Sister spirit, come away."
What is this absorbs me quite?
Steals my senses, shuts my sight,
Drowns my spirits, draws my breath?
Tell me, my soul, can this be death?

The world recedes; it disappears!
Heaven opens on my eyes! my ears
With sounds seraphic ring:
Lend, lend your wings! I mount! I fly!
O Grave! where is thy victory?
O Death! where is thy sting?

[JOSEPH ADDISON. 1672—1719.]

ITALY.

FOR whereso'er I turn my ravished eyes,
Gay, gilded scenes in shining prospect rise;
Poetic fields encompass me around,
And still I seem to tread on classic ground;

For here the muse so oft her harp has
 strung,
 That not a mountain rears its head un-
 sung;
 Renown'd in verse each shady thicket
 grows,
 And every stream in heavenly numbers
 flows.



HYMN.

How are thy servants blest, oh Lord !
 How sure is their defence !
 Eternal wisdom is their guide,
 Their help Omnipotence.

In foreign realms and lands remote,
 Supported by thy care,
 Through burning climes I passed unhurt,
 And breathed the tainted air.

Thy mercy sweetened every toil,
 Made every region please ;
 The hoary Alpine hills it warmed,
 And smoothed the Tyrrhene seas.

Think, oh my soul, devoutly think,
 How, with affrighted eyes,
 Thou saw'st the wide extended deep
 In all its horrors rise.

Confusion dwelt in every face,
 And fear in every heart ;
 When waves on waves, and gulfs on gulfs,
 O'ercame the pilot's art.

Yet then from all my griefs, O Lord,
 Thy mercy set me free,
 Whilst in the confidence of prayer,
 My faith took hold on thee.

For, though in dreadful whirls we hung,
 High on the broken wave,
 I knew thou wert not slow to hear,
 Nor impotent to save.

The storm was laid, the winds retired
 Obedient to thy will ;
 The sea, that roared at thy command,
 At thy command was still.

In midst of dangers, fears, and death,
 Thy goodness I'll adore,
 And praise thee for thy mercies past,
 And humbly hope for more.

My life, if thou preserv'st my life,
 Thy sacrifice shall be ;
 And death, if death must be my doom,
 Shall join my soul to thee.



AN ODE.

THE spacious firmament on high,
 With all the blue ethereal sky,
 And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
 Their great original proclaim.
 Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
 Does his Creator's power display ;
 And publishes, to every land,
 The work of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
 The moon takes up the wondrous tale ;
 And nightly to the listening earth,
 Repeats the story of her birth ;
 Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
 And all the planets, in their turn,
 Confirm the tidings as they roll,
 And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What, though in solemn silence, all
 Move round the dark terrestrial ball ;
 What though nor real voice nor sound,
 Amid their radiant orbs be found ?
 In reason's ear they all rejoice,
 And utter forth a glorious voice ;
 For ever singing, as they shine,
 The hand that made us is divine.



PARAPHRASE OF PSALM XXIII

THE Lord my pasture shall prepare,
 And feed me with a shepherd's care ;
 His presence shall my wants supply,
 And guard me with a watchful eye :
 My noon-day walks he shall attend,
 And all my midnight hours defend.

When in the sultry glebe I faint,
 Or on the thirsty mountain pant ;
 To fertile vales and dewy meads
 My weary wandering steps he lead

Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
Amid the verdant landscape flow.

Though in the paths of death I tread,
With gloomy horrors overspread,
My stedfast heart shall fear no ill,
For thou, O Lord, art with me still ;
Thy friendly crook shall give me aid,
And guide me through the dreadful shade.

Though in a bare and rugged way,
Through devious lonely wolds I stray,
Thy bounty shall my wants beguile,
The barren wilderness shall smile.
With sudden greens and herbage crown'd,
And streams shall murmur all around.

ROSAMOND'S SONG.

FROM walk to walk, from shade to shade,
From stream to purling stream convey'd,
Through all the mazes of the grove,
Through all the mingling tracts I rove,

Turning,
Burning,
Changing,
Ranging,

Full of grief and full of love,
Impatient for my Lord's return
I sigh, I pine, I rave, I mourn,
Was ever passion cross'd like mine ?

To rend my breast,
And break my rest,
A thousand thousand ills combine.
Absence wounds me,
Fear surrounds me,
Guilt confounds me,

Was ever passion cross'd like mine ?

How does my constant grief deface
The pleasures of this happy place !
In vain the spring my senses greets,
In all her colours, all her sweets ;

To me the rose
No longer glows,
Every plant
Has lost his scent ;

The vernal blooms of various hue,
The blossoms fresh with morning dew,
The breeze, that sweeps these fragrant
bowers,
Fill'd with the breath of op'ning flow'rs,

Purple scenes,
Winding greens,
Glooms inviting,
Birds delighting,
(Nature's softest, sweetest store)
Charm my tortur'd soul no more.
Ye powers, I rave, I faint, I die :
Why so slow ! great Henry, why ?
From death and alarms
Fly, fly to my arms,
Fly to my arms, my monarch, fly.

CATO'S SOLILOQUY.

It must be so—Plato, thou reason'st
well—

Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond
desire,

This longing after immortality ?

Or whence this secret dread, and inward
horror

Of falling into nought ? Why shrinks the
Soul

Back on herself, and startles at destruction ?

'Tis the Divinity, that stirs within us ;

'Tis Heav'n itself, that points out a here-
after,

And intimates eternity to man.

Eternity ! thou pleasing, dreadful thought !

Through what variety of untried being,

Through what new scenes and changes
must we pass !

The wide, th' unbounded prospect lies
before me ;

But shadows, clouds, and darkness rest
upon it. [us,

Here will I hold. If there's a power above
(And that there is, all Nature cries aloud
Through all her works,) he must delight
in virtue ;

And that which he delights in must be
happy.

But when or where ?—This world was
made for Cæsar.

I'm weary of conjectures—this must end
'em.

Thus am I doubly arm'd—My death
and life,

My bane and antidote are both before me.

This in a moment brings me to an end ;

But this informs me I shall never die.

The Soul, secured in her existence, smiles
At the drawn dagger, and defies its point:
The stars shall fade away, the Sun himself
Grow dim with age, and Nature sink in
years;
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,
The wreck of matter and the crash of
worlds.

[JAMES THOMSON. 1699—1748.]

THE PLEASURES OF RETIREMENT.

O, KNEW he but his happiness, of men
The happiest he! who, far from public
rage,
Deep in the vale, with a choice few
retired,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the rural
life.
What though the dome be wanting, whose
proud gate
Each morning vomits out the sneaking
crowd
Of flatt'ers false, and in their turn abused?
Vile intercourse! What though the
glitt'ring robe,
Of ev'ry hue reflected light can give,
Or floating loose, or stiff with mazy gold,
The pride and gaze of fools, oppress him
not?
What though, from utmost land and sea
purvey'd,
For him each rarer tributary life
Bleeds not, and his insatiate table heaps
With luxury and death? What though
his bowl,
Flames not with costly juice; nor sunk in
beds,
Oft of gay care, he tosses not the night,
Or melts the thoughtless hours in idle
state?
What though he knows not those fantastic
joys
That still amuse the wanton, still deceive;
A face of pleasure, but a heart of pain;
Their hollow moments undelighted all?
Sure peace is his; a solid life estranged
From disappointment and fallacious hope:
Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich,

In herbs and fruits; whatever greens the
Spring,
When Heav'n descends in show'rs, or
bends the bough;
When Summers reddens, and when Au-
tumn beams;
Or in the wintry glebe whatever lies
Concealed, and fattens with the richest
sap:
These are not wanting; nor the milky
drove,
Luxuriant, spread o'er all the lowing vale;
Nor bleating mountains; nor the chide of
stream,
And hum of bees, inviting sleep sincere
Into the guiltless breast, beneath the
shade,
Or thrown at large amid the fragrant hay;
Nor ought beside of prospect, grove, or
song,
Dim grottoes, gleaming lakes, and foun-
tains clear.
Here, too, dwells simple Truth, plain
Innocence,
Unsullied Beauty, sound unbroken Youth,
Patient of labour, with a little pleased;
Health ever-blooming, unambitious Toil,
Calm Contemplation, and poetic Ease.
The rage of nations, and the crush of
states,
Move not the man, who, from the world
escaped,
In still retreats and flow'ry solitudes,
To Nature's voice attends, from month to
month, [year:
And day to day, through the revolving
Admiring, sees her in her ev'ry shape,
Feels all her sweet emotions at his heart;
Takes what she lib'ral gives, nor thinks of
more.
He, when young Spring protrudes the
bursting gems,
Marks the first bud, and sucks the health-
ful gale
Into his freshen'd soul; her genial hours
He full enjoys; and not a beauty blows,
And not an op'ning blossom breathes, in
vain.
In Summer he, beneath the living shade,
Such as o'er frigid Tempe wont to wave,
Or Hemus cool, reads what the Muse of
these,
Perhaps has in immortal numbers sung;

Or what she dictates writes : and, oft an eye

Shot round, rejoices in the vig'rous year.

When Autumn's yellow lustre gilds the world,

And tempts the sickled swain into the field,

Seiz'd by the gen'ral joy, his heart distends

With gentle throes ; and, through the tepid gleams

Deep musing, then he best exerts his song.

Ev'n Winter mild to him is full of bliss.

The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste,

Abrupt and deep, stretch'd o'er the buried earth,

Awake to solemn thought. At night the skies,

Disclos'd and kindled by refining frost,
Pour ev'ry lustre on th' exalted eye.

A friend, a book, the stealing hours secure,

And mark them down for wisdom. With swift wing

O'er land and sea th' imagination roams ;

Or truth, divinely breaking on his mind,
Elates his being, and unfolds his pow'rs ;

Or in his breast heroic virtue burns.
The touch of kindred, too, and love he feels ;

The modest eye, whose beams on his alone

Ecstatic shine ; the little strong embrace
Of prattling children, twisted round his neck,

And, emulous to please him, calling forth
The fond parental soul. Nor purpose gay,

Amusement, dance, or song, he sternly scorns ;

For happiness and true philosophy
Are of the social, still, and smiling kind.

This is the life which those who fret in guilt,

And guilty cities, never know ; the life
Led by primeval ages, uncorrupt,

When angels dwelt, and God himself,
with man.

DOMESTIC BLISS.

HAPPY they, the happiest of their kind,
Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate

Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.

'Tis not the coarser tie of human laws,
Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,

That binds their peace, but harmony itself,

Attuning all their passions into love ;
Where friendship full exerts her softest power,

Perfect esteem, enliven'd by desire
Ineffable, and sympathy of soul ;

Thought meeting thought, and will preventing will,

With boundless confidence.



CELADON AND AMELIA.

'Tis list'ning fear and dumb amazement all :

When to the startled eye the sudden glance

Appears far south, eruptive through the cloud ;

And following slower, in explosion vast,
The thunder raises his tremendous voice.

At first heard solemn o'er the verge of Heaven,

The tempest growls ; but as it nearer comes

And rolls its awful burden on the wind,
The lightnings flash a larger curve, and more

The noise astounds ; till over head a sheet
Of livid flame discloses wide ; then shuts,

And opens wider ; shuts and opens still
Expansive, wrapping æther in a blaze :

Follows the loosen'd aggravated roar,
Enlarging, deep'ning, mingling, peal on peal

Crush'd horrible, convulsive heav'n and earth.

Guilt hears appall'd, with deeply troubled thought.

And yet not always on the guilty head
Descends the fated flash.—Young Celadon

And his Amelia were a matchless pair ;

With equal virtue form'd, and equal
grace ;

The same, distinguish'd by their sex
alone :

Hers the mild lustre of the blooming
morn,

And his the radiance of the risen day.

They loved ; but such their guiltless
passion was,

As in the dawn of time 'informed the
heart

Of innocence, and undissembling truth.

'Twas friendship, heighten'd by the mu-
tual wish ;

Th' enchanting hope, and sympathetic
glow

Beam'd from the mutual eye. Devoting
all

To love, each was to each a dearer
self ;

Supremely happy in th' awaken'd power
Of giving joy. Alone, amid the shades,

Still in harmonious intercourse they lived
The rural day, and talk'd the flowing

heart,
Or sigh'd, and look'd unutterable things.

THE MISERIES OF HUMAN LIFE.

AH ! little think the gay, licentious,
proud,

Whom pleasure, pow'r, and affluence
surround !

They, who their thoughtless hours in
giddy mirth,

And wanton, often cruel riot waste ;

Ah ! little think they, while they dance
along,

How many feel, this very moment, death,
And all the sad variety of pain :

How many sink in the devouring flood,
Or more devouring flame : how many
bleed,

By shameful variance betwixt Man and
Man ;

How many pine in want, and dungeon
glooms ;

Shut from the common air and common
use

Of their own limbs : how many drink the
cup

Of baleful Grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of Misery : sore pierced by wintry winds,

How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless Poverty : how many shake

With all the fiercer tortures of the mind,
Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, re-
morse.

Whence, tumbling headlong from the
height of life,

They furnish matter for the tragic muse :
Ev'n in the vale, where Wisdom loves to
dwell,

With Friendship, Peace, and Contempla-
tion join'd,

How many, rack'd with honest passions,
droop

In deep, retired distress : how many stand
Around the deathbed of their dearest

friends,
And point the parting anguish.—Thought

fond man
Of these, and all the thousand nameless

ills
That one incessant struggle render life,

One scene of toil, of suffering, and of
fate,

Vice in his high career would stand ap-
pall'd,

And heedless rambling Impulse learn to
think ;

The conscious heart of Charity would
warm,

And her wide wish Benevolence dilate ;
The social tear would rise, the social

sigh ;
And into clear perfection, gradual bliss,

Refining still, the social passions work.

SUNRISE.

YONDER comes the powerful king of
day,

Rejoicing in the east. The lessening
cloud,

The kindling azure, and the mountain's
brow

Illumed with fluid gold, his near ap-
proach

Betoken glad. Lo ! now, apparent a
g

Aslant the dew-bright earth, and colour'd
 air,
 He looks in boundless majesty abroad;
 And sheds the shining day, that burnish'd
 plays
 On rocks, and hills, and towers, and
 wandering streams,
 High gleaming from afar Prime cheerer
 Light!
 Of all material beings first, and best!
 Efflux divine! Nature's resplendent robe!
 Without whose vesting beauty all were
 wrapt
 In unessential gloom; and thou, O Sun!
 Soul of surrounding worlds! in whom
 best seen
 Shines out thy Maker, may I sing of
 thee?

A WINTER STORM.

THEN comes the father of the tempest
 forth,
 Wrapt in black glooms. First joyless
 rains obscure
 Drive through the mingling skies with
 vapour foul;
 Dash on the mountain's brow, and shake
 the woods,
 That grumbling wave below. The un-
 sightly plain
 Lies a brown deluge, as the low bent
 clouds
 Pour flood on flood, yet unexhausted still
 Combine, and deepening into night, shut
 up
 The day's fair face. The wanderers of
 Heaven,
 Each to his home retire; save those that
 love
 To take their pastime in the troubled air,
 Or skimming flutter round the dimply
 pool.
 The cattle from the untasted fields return,
 And ask, with meaning low, their wonted
 stalls,
 Or ruminate in the contiguous shade.
 Thither the household feathery people
 crowd,
 The crested cock, with all his female train,
 Pensive, and dipping; while the cottage
 hind

Hangs o'er the enlivening blaze, and
 taleful there
 Recounts his simple frolic: much he
 talks,
 And much he laughs, nor recks the storm
 that blows
 Without, and rattles on his humble roof.
 Wide o'er the brim, with many a tor-
 rent swell'd,
 And the mix'd ruin of its banks o'er-
 spread,
 At last the roused-up river pours along:
 Resistless, roaring, dreadful, down it
 comes,
 From the rude mountain and the mossy
 wild,
 Tumbling through rocks abrupt, and
 sounding far;
 Then o'er the sanded valley floating
 spreads,
 Calm sluggish, silent; till again, con-
 strain'd
 Between two meeting hills, it bursts away,
 Where rocks and woods o'erhang the
 turbid stream;
 There, gathering triple force, rapid and
 deep,
 It boils, and wheels, and foams, and
 thunders through.

* * *

When from the pallid sky the Sun de-
 scends,
 With many a spot, that o'er his glaring
 orb
 Uncertain wanders, stain'd; red fiery
 streaks
 Begin to flush around. The reeling
 clouds
 Stagger with dizzy poise, as doubting yet
 Which master to obey: while rising slow,
 Blank in the leaden-colour'd east, the
 Moon
 Wears a wan circle round her blunted
 horns.
 Seen through the turbid fluctuating air,
 The stars obtuse emit a shiver'd ray;
 Or frequent seen to shoot athwart the
 gloom,
 And long behind them trail the whitening
 blaze.

* * *

Ocean, unequal press'd, with broken tide

And blind commotion, heaves; while
from the shore,
Eat into caverns by the restless wave,
And forest-rusling mountains, comes a
voice,
That solemn sounding bids the world
prepare.

Then issues forth the storm with sudden
burst,

And hurls the whole precipitated air,
Down, in a torrent. On the passive main
Descends the etereal force, and with strong
gust

Turns from its bottom the discolour'd
deep.

Through the black night that sits immense
around,

Lash'd into foam, the fierce conflicting
brine

Seems o'er a thousand raging waves to
burn.

Meantime the mountain-billows to the
clouds

In dreadful tumult swell'd, surge above
surge,

Burst into chaos with tremendous roar,
And anchor'd navies from their stations
drive,

Wild as the winds across the howling waste
Of mighty waters: now the inflated wave
Straining they scale, and now impetuous
shoot

Into the secret chambers of the deep,
The wintry Baltic thundering o'er their
head.

Emerging thence again, before the breath
Of full-exerted Heaven, they wing their
course,

And dart on distant coasts; if some sharp
rock,

Or shoal insidious, break not their career,
And in loose fragments fling them float-
ing round.

* * * * *

Low waves the rooted forest, vex'd, and
sheds

What of its furnish'd honours yet remain;
Dash'd down, and scatter'd, by the tear-
ing wind's

Assiduous fury, its gigantic limbs.
Thus struggling through the dissipated

grove,

The whirling tempest raves along the
plain;

And on the cottage thatch'd, or lordly
roof,

Keen-fastening, shakes them to the solid
base.

Sleep frighted flies; and round the rock-
ing dome,

For entrance eager, howls the savage
blast.

~~~~~

### RULE BRITANNIA.

WHEN Britain first, at Heaven's com-  
mand,

Arose from out the azure main,  
This was the charter of the land,

And guardian angels sang the strain:  
Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the  
waves;

Britons never will be slaves.

The nations, not so blest as thee,  
Must, in their turn, to tyrants fall;

Whilst thou shalt flourish, great and free,  
The dread and envy of them all:

Rule Britannia, &c.

Still more majestic shalt thou rise,  
More dreadful from each foreign stroke;

As the loud blast that tears the skies  
Serves but to root thy native oak:

Rule Britannia, &c.

Thee haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame;  
All their attempts to hurl thee down

Will but arouse thy gen'rous flame,  
And work their woe—but thy renown:

Rule Britannia, &c.

To thee belongs the rural reign;  
Thy cities shall with commerce shine:

All thine shall be the subject main,  
And every shore encircle thine:

Rule Britannia, &c.

The Muses, still with Freedom found,  
Shall to thy happy coast repair;

Blest isle! with matchless beauty crown'd  
And manly hearts to guard the fair:

Rule Britannia, &c.



## THE CASTLE OF INDOLENCE.

IN lowly dale, fast by a river's side,  
 With woody hill o'er hill encompass'd  
 round,  
 A most enchanting wizard did abide,  
 Than whom a fiend more fell is no  
 where found,  
 It was, I ween, a lovely spot of ground :  
 And there a season atween June and  
 May,  
 Half pranked with spring, with summer  
 half imbrown'd,  
 A listless climate made, where sooth to  
 say,  
 No living wight could work, ne cared ev'n  
 for play.

Was nought around but images of rest :  
 Sleep-soothing groves, and quiet lawns  
 between ;  
 And flowery beds that slumberous in-  
 fluence kest,  
 From poppies breath'd ; and beds of  
 pleasant green,  
 Where never yet was creeping creature  
 seen.  
 Meantime unnumber'd glittering stream-  
 lets play'd  
 And purled everywhere their waters  
 sheen ;  
 That as they bicker'd through the  
 sunny glade,  
 Though restless still themselves, a lulling  
 murmur made.

Join'd to the prattle of the purling rills,  
 Were heard the lowing herds along the  
 vale,  
 And flocks loud-bleating from the dis-  
 tant hills ;  
 And vacant shepherds piping in the  
 dale :  
 And now and then sweet Philomel  
 would wail,  
 Or stock-doves 'plain amid the forest  
 deep,  
 That drowsy rustled to the sighing gale ;  
 And still a coil the grasshopper did  
 keep ;  
 Yet all these sounds yblent inclined all to  
 sleep.

Full in the passage of the vale above,  
 A sable, silent, solemn forest stood ;  
 Where nought but shadowy forms were  
 seen to move,  
 As Idless fancy'd in her dreaming mood :  
 And up the hills, on either side, a wood  
 Of blackening pines, ay waving to and  
 fro,  
 Sent forth a sleepy horror through the  
 blood ;  
 And where this valley winded out,  
 below,  
 The murmuring main was heard, and  
 scarcely heard, to flow.

A pleasing land of drowsy-head it was,  
 Of dreams that wave before the half-  
 shut eye ;  
 And of gay castles in the clouds that  
 pass,  
 For ever flushing round a summer sky :  
 There eke the soft delights, that witch-  
 ingly  
 Instil a wanton sweetness through the  
 breast,  
 And the calm pleasures always hover'd  
 nigh ;  
 But whate'er smack'd of noyance, or  
 unrest,  
 Was far far off expell'd from this delicious  
 nest.

## ODE.

TELL me, thou soul of her I love,  
 Ah ! tell me, whither art thou fled ;  
 To what delightful world above,  
 Appointed for the happy dead.

Or dost thou, free, at pleasure, roam,  
 And sometimes share thy lover's woe ;  
 Where, void of thee, his cheerless home  
 Can now, alas ! no comfort know ?

Oh ! if thou hover'st round my walk,  
 While, under every well-known tree,  
 I to thy fancy'd shadow talk,  
 And every tear is full of thee.

Should then the weary eye of grief,  
 Beside some sympathetic stream,  
 In slumber find a short relief,  
 Oh, visit thou my soothing dream !

[ERASMUS DARVIN. 1731—1802.]

ELIZA.

Now stood Eliza on the wood-crown'd  
height,  
O'er Minden's plains spectatress of the  
fight;  
Sought with bold eye amid the bloody  
strife  
Her dearer self, the partner of her life;  
From hill to hill the rushing host pursued,  
And view'd his banner, or believed she  
view'd.  
Pleased with the distant roar, with quicker  
tread,  
Fast by his hand one lisping boy she led;  
And one fair girl amid the loud alarm  
Slept on her kerchief, cradled on her  
arm:  
While round her brows bright beams of  
honour dart.  
And love's warm eddies circle round her  
heart.  
—Near and more near the intrepid beauty  
press'd,  
Saw through the driving smoke his danc-  
ing crest,  
Heard the exulting shout—"They run!  
—they run!"  
"He's safe!" she cried, "he's safe! the  
battle's won!"  
—A ball now hisses through the airy  
tides,  
(Some Fury wings it, and some Demon  
guides,) Parts the fine locks her graceful head that  
deck,  
Wounds her fair ear, and sinks into her  
neck:  
The red stream issuing from her azure  
veins,  
Dyes her white veil, her ivory bosom  
stains.  
—"Ah me!" she cried, and sinking on  
the ground,  
Kiss'd her dear babes, regardless of the  
wound:  
"Oh, cease not yet to beat, thou vital  
urn,  
Wait, gushing life, oh! wait my love's  
return!"—  
Hoarse barks the wolf, the vulture screams  
from far,

The angel, Pity, shuns the walks of  
war;—  
"Oh spare, ye war-hounds, spare their  
tender age!  
On me, on me," she cried, "exhaust  
your rage!"  
Then with weak arms, her weeping babes  
care,  
And sighing, hid them in her blood-  
stain'd vest.  
  
From tent to tent the impatient warrior  
flies,  
Fear in his heart, and frenzy in his eyes:  
Eliza's name along the camp he calls,  
Eliza echoes through the canvas walls;  
Quick through the murmuring gloom his  
footsteps tread,  
O'er groaning heaps, the dying and the  
dead,  
Vault o'er the plain,—and in the tangled  
wood,—  
Lo! dead Eliza—weltering in her blood!  
Soon hears his listening son the welcome  
sounds,  
With open arms and sparkling eyes he  
bounds,  
"Speak low," he cries, and gives his little  
hand, [sand;  
"Mamma's asleep upon the dew-cold  
Alas! we both with cold and hunger  
quake—  
Why do you weep? Mamma will soon  
awake."  
—"She'll wake no more!" the hopeless  
mourner cried,  
Upturn'd his eyes, and clasp'd his hands,  
and sigh'd;  
Stretch'd on the ground, awhile entranced  
he lay,  
And press'd warm kisses on the lifeless  
clay;  
And then upsprung with wild convulsive  
start,  
And all the father kindled in his heart;  
"Oh, Heaven!" he cried, "my first rash  
vow forgive!  
These bind to earth, for these I pray to  
live."  
Round his chill babes he wrapp'd his  
crimson vest,  
And clasp'd them sobbing, to his aching  
breast.

## THE STARS.

ROLL on, ye stars! exult in youthful  
prime,  
Mark with bright curves the printless  
steps of Time;  
Near and more near your beauteous cars ap-  
proach;  
And lessening orbs on lessening orbs en-  
croach,  
Flowers of the sky! ye too to *ye* must  
yield,  
Frail as your sicken sisters of the field.  
Star after star from Heaven's high arch  
shall rush,  
Suns sink on suns, and systems, systems  
crush,  
Headlong, extinct to one dark centre fall,  
And death, and night, and chaos mingle  
all:  
Till o'er the wreck, emerging from the  
storm,  
Immortal Nature lifts her changeeful form,  
Mounts from her funeral pyre on wings of  
flame,  
And soars and shines, another and the  
same!

## THE PAPYRUS.

PAPYRA, throned upon the banks of Nile,  
Spread her smooth leaf, and waved her  
silver style.  
The storied pyramid, the laurel'd bust,  
The trophied arch had crumbled into  
dust;  
The sacred symbol, and the epic song  
(Unknown the character, forgot the  
tongue),  
With each unconquer'd chief, or sainted  
maid,  
Sunk undistinguish'd in Oblivion's shade  
Sad o'er the scatter'd ruins Genius sigh'd,  
And infant Arts but learn'd to lisp and  
died,  
Till to astonish'd realms Papyra taught  
To paint in mystic colours sound and  
thought.  
With Wisdom's voice to point the page  
sublime,  
And mark in adamant the steps of Time.

Three favour'd youths her soft attention  
share,  
The fond disciples of the studious fair.  
Hear her sweet voice, the golden process  
prove,  
Gaze as they learn, and, as they listen,  
love.  
*The first* from alpha to omega joins  
The letter'd tribes along the level lines:  
Weighs with nice ear the vowel, liquid,  
surd,  
And breaks in syllables the volant word.  
Then forms *the next* upon the marshall'd  
plain  
In deepening ranks his dext'rous cypher-  
train, bands,  
And counts, as wheel the decimating  
The dews of Egypt, or Arabia's sands.  
And then *the third*, on four concordant  
lines,  
Prints the long crotchet, and the quaver  
joins;  
Marks the gay trill, the solemn pause in-  
scribes,  
And parts with bars the undulating tribes.  
Pleased, round her cane-wove throne, the  
applauding crowd  
Clapp'd their rude hands, their swarthy  
foreheads bow'd;  
With loud acclaim, "A present God!"  
they cried,  
"A present God!" rebellowing shores  
replied;  
Then peal'd at intervals with mingled  
swell,  
The echoing harp, shrill clarion, horn,  
and shell:  
While bards, ecstatic bending o'er the  
lyre,  
Struck deeper chords, and wing'd the  
song with fire.  
Then mark'd astronomers with keen  
eyes,  
The moon's refulgent journey through the  
skies;  
Watch'd the swift comets urge their  
blazing cars,  
And weigh'd the sun with his revolving  
stars  
High rais'd the chemists their hermetic  
wands  
(And changing forms obey'd their waving  
hands).

Her treasured gold from earth's deep  
chambers tore,  
Or fused and harden'd her chalybeate ore.  
All, with bent knee, from fair Papyrus  
claim,  
Wove by her hands, the wreath of death-  
less fame.  
Exulting, Genius crown'd his darling child,  
The young Arts clasp'd her knees, and  
Virtue smiled.

## STEEL.

HAIL adamantine steel ! magnetic lord,  
King of the prow, the ploughshare, and  
the sword.  
True to the pole, by thee the pilot guides  
His steady helm amid the struggling  
tides ;  
Braves with broad sail th' immeasurable  
sea,  
Cleaves the dark air, and asks no star but  
thee.—  
By thee the ploughshare rends the matted  
plain,  
Inhumes in level rows the living grain ;  
Intrusive forests quit the cultured ground,  
And Ceres laughs, with golden fillets  
crown'd.  
O'er restless realms, when scowling Dis-  
cord flings  
Her snakes, and loud the din of battle  
rings ;  
Expiring strength and vanquish'd courage  
feel  
Thy arm resistless, adamantine Steel !

## SLAVERY.

HARK ! heard ye not that piercing cry,  
Which shook the waves, and rent the  
sky !  
E'en now, e'en now, on yonder Western  
shores  
Weeps pale Despair, and writhing Anguish  
roars. [yell  
E'en now in Afric's groves with hideous  
Fierce Slavery stalks, and slips the dogs  
of Hell ;  
From vale to vale the gathering cries re-  
bound,  
And sable nations tremble at the sound !—

Ye bands of Senators ! whose suffrage  
sways  
Britannia's realms ; whom either Ind  
obeys ; [brave ;  
Who right the injur'd, and reward the  
Stretch your strong arm, for ye have  
pow'r to save !  
Thron'd in the vaulted heart, his dread  
resort,  
Inexorable Conscience holds his court ;  
With still small voice the plots of Guilt  
alarms,  
Bares his mask'd brow, his lifted hand  
disarms ;  
But, wrapp'd in night with terrors all his  
own, [done.  
He speaks in thunder when the deed is  
Hear Him, ye Senates ! hear this truth  
sublime,  
“He who allows oppression shares the  
crime.”  
No radiant pearl, which crested Fortune  
wears,  
No gem, that twinkling hangs from  
Beauty's ears,  
Not the bright stars, which Night's blue  
arch adorn,  
Nor rising suns, that gild the vernal  
morn, [breaks  
Shine with such lustre, as the tear that  
For others' woe down Virtue's manly  
cheeks.

[JAMES BRATTIE. 1735—1803]

EDWIN.

*The Minstrel.*

THERE liv'd in gothic days, as legends  
tell,  
A shepherd-swain, a man of low de-  
gree ;  
Whose sires, perchance, in Fairyland  
might dwell,  
Sicilian groves, or vales of Arcady.  
But he, I ween, was of the north coun-  
trie :  
A nation fam'd for song, and beauty's  
charms ;  
Zealous, yet modest : innocent, though  
free ;  
Patient of toil ; serene, amidst alarms ;  
Inflexible in faith · invincible in arms.

The shepherd-swain of whom I mention  
made,  
On Scotia's mountains fed his little  
flock ;  
The sickle, scythe, or plough, he never  
sway'd ;  
An honest heart was almost all his  
stock ;  
His drink the living water from the  
rock :  
The milky dams supplied his board, and  
lent  
Their kindly fleece to baffle winter's  
shock ;  
And he, though oft with dust and sweat  
besprent,  
Did guide and guard their wanderings,  
wheresoe'er they went.

From labour health, from health con-  
tentment springs,  
Contentment opes the source of every  
joy ;  
He envied not, he never thought of,  
kings ;  
Nor from those appetites sustain'd  
Annoy,  
That chance may frustrate, or indul-  
gence cloy :  
Nor Fate his calm and humble hopes  
beguil'd ;  
He mourn'd no recreant friend, nor  
mistress coy,  
For on his vows the blameless Phoebe  
smil'd,  
And her alone he lov'd, and lov'd her from  
a child.

No jealousy their dawn of love o'ercast,  
Nor blasted were their wedded days  
with strife ;  
Each season, look'd delightful, as it  
past,  
To the fond husband, and the faithful  
wife ;  
Beyond the lowly vale of shepherd life  
They never roam'd ; secure beneath the  
storm  
Which in ambition's lofty land is rife,  
Where peace and love are canker'd by  
the worm  
Of pride, each bud of joy industrious to  
deform

The wight, whose tales these artless  
lines unfold,  
Was all the offspring of this humble  
pair :  
His birth no oracle or seer foretold :  
No prodigy appear'd in earth or air,  
Nor aught that might a strange event  
declare.  
You guess each circumstance of Edwin's  
birth ;  
The parent's transport, and the parent's  
care ;  
The gossip's prayer for wealth, and wit,  
and worth ;  
And one long summer-day of indolence  
and mirth.

And yet poor Edwin was no vulgar boy ;  
Deep thought oft seem'd to fix his infant  
eye :  
Dainties he heeded not, nor gaude, nor  
toy,  
Save one short pipe of rudest minstrelsy.  
Silent, when glad ; affectionate, though  
shy ;  
And now his look was most demurely  
sad,  
And now he laugh'd aloud, yet none  
knew why ;  
The neighbours star'd and sigh'd, yet  
bless'd the lad ;  
Some deem'd him wondrous wise, and  
some believ'd him mad.

But why should I his childish feats dis-  
play ?  
Concourse, and noise, and toil he ever  
fled ;  
Nor car'd to mingle in the clamorous  
fray  
Of squabbling imps, but to the forest  
sped,  
Or roam'd at large the lonely moun-  
tain's head ;  
Or, where the maze of some bewilder'd  
stream  
To deep untrodden groves his footsteps  
led,  
There would he wander wild, till  
Phœbus' beam,  
Shot from the western cliff, releas'd the  
weary team."

Th' exploit of strength, dexterity, or speed,  
 To him nor vanity nor joy could bring:  
 His heart, from cruel sport estrang'd,  
 would bleed  
 To work the woe of any living thing,  
 By trap or net, by arrow or by sling;  
 These he detested, those he scorn'd to wield;  
 He wish'd to be the guardian, not the king,  
 Tyrant far less, or traitor of the field:  
 And sure the sylvan reign unbloody joy might yield.

Lo! where the stripling, wrapt in wonder, roves  
 Beneath the precipice o'erhung with pine;  
 And sees, on high, amidst th' encircling groves,  
 From cliff to cliff the foaming torrents shine:  
 While waters, woods, and winds, in concert join,  
 And Echo swells the chorus to the skies.  
 Would Edwin this majestic scene resign  
 For aught the huntsman's puny craft supplies?  
 Ah! no: he better knows great Nature's charms to prize.

And oft he trac'd the uplands, to survey,  
 When o'er the sky advanc'd the kindling dawn,  
 The crimson cloud, blue main, and mountain gray,  
 And lake, dim gleaming on the smoky lawn;  
 Far to the west the long long vale withdrawn,  
 Where twilight loves to linger for a while;  
 And now he faintly kens the bounding  
 And villager abroad at early toil.—  
 But lo! the sun appears! and heaven, earth, ocean, smile.

And oft the craggy cliff he lov'd to climb,  
 When all in mist the world below was lost:

What dreadful pleasure! there to stand sublime,  
 Like shipwreck'd mariner on desert coast,  
 And view th' enormous waste of vapour tost  
 In billows, lengthening to th' horizon round,  
 Now scoop'd in gulfs, with mountains now emboss'd!  
 And hear the voice of mirth and song rebound,  
 Flocks, herds, and waterfalls, along the hoar profound!

In truth he was a strange and wayward wight,  
 Fond of each gentle, and each dreadful  
 In darkness, and in storm, he found delight;  
 Nor less, than when on ocean-wave serene  
 The southern sun diffus'd his dazzling shene,  
 Even sad vicissitude amus'd his soul:  
 And if a sigh would sometimes intervene,  
 And down his cheek a tear of pity roll,  
 A sigh, a tear so sweet, he wish'd not to control.

#### EDWIN'S MEDITATIONS IN AUTUMN.

"O YE wild groves, O where is now your bloom!"  
 (The Muse interprets thus his tender thought)  
 "Your flowers, your verdure, and your balmy gloom,  
 Of late so grateful in the hour of drought!  
 Why do the birds, that song and rapture brought  
 To all your bowers, their mansions now forsake?  
 Ah! why has fickle chance this ruin wrought?  
 For now the storm howls mournful through the brake,  
 And the dead foliage flies in many a shapeless flake.

"Where now the rill, melodious, pure,  
and cool,  
And meads, with life, and mirth, and  
beauty crown'd !  
Ah ! see, th' unsightly slime, and slug-  
gish pool,  
Have all the solitary vale imbrown'd ;  
Fled each fair form, and mute each  
melting sound,  
The raven croaks forlorn on naked  
spray :  
And, hark ! the river, bursting every  
mound,  
Down the vale thunders ; and with  
wasteful sway,  
Uproots the grove, and rolls the shatter'd  
rocks away.

"Yet such the destiny of all on  
earth,  
So flourishes and fades majestic man !  
Fair is the bud his vernal morn brings  
forth,  
And fostering gales a while the nursing  
fan .  
O smile, ye heavens, serene ; ye mil-  
dews wan,  
Ye blighting whirlwinds, spare his  
balmy prime,  
Nor lessen of his life the little span .  
Borne on the swift, though silent wings  
of Time,  
Old age comes on apace to ravage all the  
clime.

"And be it so. Let those deplore  
their doom,  
Whose hope still grovels in this dark  
sojourn :  
But lofty souls, who look beyond the  
tomb,  
Can smile at Fate, and wonder how  
they mourn.  
Shall spring to these sad scenes no more  
return ?  
Is yonder wave the sun's eternal  
bed ?—  
Soon shall the orient with new lustre  
burn,  
And spring shall soon her vital influence  
shed,  
Again attune the grove, again adorn the  
mead.

"Shall I be left abandon'd in the dust,  
When Fate, relenting, lets the flower  
revive,  
Shall Nature's voice, to man alone  
unjust,  
Bid him, though doom'd to perish, hope  
to live ?  
Is it for this fair Virtue oft must strive  
With disappointment, penury, and  
pain ?—  
No : Heaven's immortal spring shall  
yet arrive  
And man's majestic beauty bloom again,  
Bright through th' eternal year of Love's  
triumphant reign "

This truth sublime his simple sire had  
taught,  
In sooth, 't was almost all the shepherd  
knew,  
No subtle nor superfluous lore he  
sought,  
Nor ever wish'd his Edwin to pursue :—  
"Let man's own sphere" (quoth he)  
"confine his view ,  
Beman's peculiar work his sole delight."  
And much, and oft, he warn'd him to  
eschew  
Falsehood and guile, and aye maintain  
the right,  
By pleasure uneduc'd, unaw'd by lawless  
might.

"And from the prayer of Want, and  
plaint of Woe,  
O never, never turn away thine ear ;  
Forlorn in this bleak wilderness below,  
Ah ! what were man, should Heaven  
refuse to hear !  
To others do (the law is not severe)  
What to thyself thou wishest to be done .  
Forgive thy foes ; and love thy parents  
dear, [alone ;  
And friends, and native land ; nor those  
All human weal and woe learn thou to  
make thine own."

#### MORNING.

BUT who the melodies of morn can tell ?  
The wild-brook babbling down the  
mountain side.

The lowing herd; the sheepfold's simple bell;  
 The pipe of early shepherd dim descried  
 In the lone valley; echoing far and wide  
 The clamorous horn along the cliffs above;  
 The hollow murmur of the ocean-tide;  
 The hum of bees, and linnet's lay of love,  
 And the full choir that wakes the universal grove.

The cottage-curs at early pilgrim bark;  
 Crown'd with her pail the tripping milkmaid sings;  
 The whistling ploughman stalks afield;  
 and, hark!  
 Down the rough slope the ponderous wagon rings;  
 Thro' rustling corn the hare astonish'd springs;  
 [hour;  
 Slow tolls the village-clock the drowsy  
 The partridge bursts away on whirring wings;  
 Deep mourns the turtle in sequester'd bower,  
 And shrill lark carols clear from her aerial tower.

#### EDWIN'S FANCIES AT EVENING.

WHEN the long-sounding curfew from afar  
 [gale,  
 Loaded with loud lament the lonely  
 Young Edwin, lighted by the evening star,  
 Lingering and listening wander'd down the vale.  
 There would he dream of graves, and  
 and corses pale;  
 And ghosts, that to the charnel-dungeon throng,  
 And drag a length of clanking chain,  
 and wail,  
 Till silenced by the owl's terrific song,  
 Or blast that shrieks by fits the shuddering  
 aisles along.

Or when the setting moon, in crimson died,  
 Hung o'er the dark and melancholy deep.

To haunted stream, remote from man he hied,  
 Where Fays of yore their revels wont to keep;  
 And there let Fancy roam at large, till sleep  
 A vision brought to his entranced sight.  
 And first, a wildly-murmuring wind 'gan creep  
 Shrill to his ringing ear; then tapers bright,  
 With instantaneous gleam, illumed the vault of Night.

Anon in view a portal's blazon'd arch  
 Arose; the trumpet bids the valves unfold;  
 And forth a host of little warriors march,  
 Grasping the diamond lance, and targe of gold.  
 Their look was gentle, their demeanour bold,  
 And green their helmets, and green their silk attire.  
 And here and there, right venerably old,  
 The long-robed minstrels wake the warbling wire,  
 And some with mellow breath the martial pipe inspire.

With merriment, and song, and timbrels clear,  
 A troop of dames from myrtle bowers advance:  
 The little warriors doff the targe and spear,  
 And loud enlivening strains provoke the dance.  
 They meet, they dart away, they wheel askance  
 To right, to left, they thrird the flying maze;  
 Now bound aloft with vigorous spring, then glance  
 Rapid along; with many-colour'd rays  
 Of tapers, gems, and gold, the echoing forests blaze.

#### THE HUMBLE WISH.

LET vanity adorn the marble tomb  
 With trophies, rhymes, and scutcheons of renown,



In the deep dungeon of some gothic  
dome,  
Where night and desolation ever frown.  
Mine be the breezy hill that skirts the  
down ;  
\* Where the green grassy turf is all I  
crave,  
With here and there a violet bestrown,  
Fast by a brook, or fountain's murmur-  
ing wave ;  
And many an evening sunshine sweetly  
on my grave.

And thither let the village swain repair ;  
And, light of heart the village maiden  
gay,  
To deck with flowers her half-dishevel'd  
hair,  
And celebrate the merry morn of May ;  
There let the shepherd's pipe the live-  
long day, [woe ;  
Fill all the grove with love's bewitching  
And when mild evening comes with  
mantle gray,  
Let not the blooming band ~~make haste~~  
to go,  
No ghost nor spell my long and last abode  
shall know.

#### FANCY AND EXPERIENCE.

I CANNOT blame thy choice (the Sage  
replied),  
For soft and smooth are fancy's flowery  
ways.  
And yet even there, if left without a  
guide,  
The young adventurer unsafely plays.  
Eyes dazzled long by fiction's gaudy  
rays,  
In modest truth no light nor beauty find.  
And who, my child, would trust the  
meteor-blaze,  
That soon must fail, and leave the  
wanderer blind,  
More dark and helpless far, than if it  
ne'er had shined ?

Fancy enervates, while it soothes, the  
heart,  
And, while it dazzles, wounds the  
mental sight :

To joy each heightening charm it can  
impart,  
But wraps the hour of woe in tenfold  
night.  
And often, when no real ills affright,  
Its visionary fiends, and endless train,  
Assail with equal or superior might,  
And through the throbbing heart, and  
dizzy brain,  
And shivering nerves, shoot stings of  
more than mortal pain.

And yet, alas ! the real ills of life  
Claim the full vigour of a mind pre-  
pared,  
Prepared for patient, long, laborious  
strife,  
Its guide Experience, and Truth its  
guard.  
We fare on earth as other men have  
fared :  
Were they successful ? Let not us  
despair.  
Was disappointment oft their sole  
reward ?  
Yet shall their tale instruct, if it declare  
How they have borne the load ourselves  
are doom'd to bear.

#### POETIC LEGENDS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD.

BUT hail, ye mighty masters of the lay,  
Nature's true sons, the friends of man  
and truth !  
Whose song, sublimely sweet, serenely  
gay,  
Amused my childhood, and inform'd  
my youth.  
O let your spirit still my bosom soothe,  
Inspire my dreams, and my wild wan-  
derings guide !  
Your voice each rugged path of life can  
smooth ;  
For well I know, wherever ye reside,  
There harmony, and peace, and innocence,  
abide.

Ah me ! abandon'd on the lonesome  
plain,  
As yet poor Edwin never knew your  
lore,

Save when against the winter's drench-  
ing rain,  
And driving snow, the cottage shut the  
door :  
Then as instructed by tradition hoar,  
Her legends when the beldam 'gan  
impart,  
Or chant the old heroic ditty o'er,  
Wonder and joy ran thrilling to his  
heart ;  
Much he the tale admired, but more the  
tuneful art.

Various and strange was the long-  
winded tale ;  
And halls, and knights, and feats of  
arms, display'd ;  
Or merry swains, who quaff the nut-  
brown ale ;  
And sing enamour'd of the nut-brown  
maid ;  
The moonlight revel of the fairy glade ;  
Or hags, that suckle an infernal brood,  
And ply in caves th' unutterable trade,  
'Midst fiends and spectres, quench the  
moon in blood,  
Yell in the midnight storm, or ride th'  
infuriate flood.

But when to horror his amazement rose,  
A gentler strain the beldam would re-  
hearse,  
A tale of rural life, a tale of woes,  
The orphan-babes, and guardian uncle  
fierce.  
O cruel ! will no pang of pity pierce  
That heart by lust of lucre sear'd to  
stone !  
For sure, if aught of virtue last, or verse,  
To latest times shall tender souls be-  
moan  
Those helpless orphan-babes by thy fell  
arts undone.

Behold, with berries smear'd, with  
brambles torn,  
The babes now famish'd lay them down  
to die,  
'Midst the wild howl of darksome woods  
forlorn,  
Folded in one another's arms they lie ;  
Nor friend, nor stranger, hears their  
dying cry :

" For from the town the man returns  
no more."  
But thou, who Heaven's just vengeance  
dar'st defy,  
This deed with fruitless tears shalt soon  
deplore,  
When Death lays waste thy house, and  
flames consume thy store.

### THE HERMIT.

At the close of the day, when the hamlet  
is still,  
And mortals the sweets of forgetfulness  
prove ;  
When nought but the torrent is heard on  
the hill,  
And nought but the nightingale's song  
in the grove ;  
'Twas thus, by the cave of the mountain  
afar,  
While his harp rang symphonious, a  
hermit began ;  
No more with himself, or with nature, at  
war,  
He thought as a sage, though he felt as  
a man.

" Ah ! why thus abandon'd to darkness  
and woe ?  
Why, lone Philomela, that languishing  
fall ?  
For spring shall return, and a lover be-  
stow,  
And sorrow no longer thy bosom en-  
thral.  
But, if pity inspire thee, renew the sad  
lay ;  
Mourn, sweetest complainer ; man calls  
thee to mourn.  
O, soothe him, whose pleasures like thine  
pass away :  
Full quickly they pass—but they never  
return.

" Now gliding remote, on the verge of  
the sky,  
The moon half extinguish'd her crescent  
displays ;  
But lately I mark'd, when majestic on  
high

She shone, and the planets were lost in  
her blaze.

Roll on, thou fair orb, and with gladness  
pursue

The path that conducts thee to splendour  
again :

But man's faded glory what change shall  
renew ?

Ah, fool ! to exult in a glory so vain !

" 'Tis night, and the landscape is lovely  
no more :

I mourn ; but ye woodlands, I mourn  
not for you ;

For morn is approaching, your charms to  
restore,

Perfumed with fresh fragrance and glittering  
with dew :

Nor yet for the ravage of winter I mourn ;  
Kind nature the embryo blossom will  
save ;

But when shall spring visit the mouldering  
urn ?

O, when shall day dawn on the night  
of the grave ?

" 'Twas thus, by the light of false science  
betray'd,

That leads to bewilder, and dazzles to  
blind,

My thoughts wont to roam, from shade  
onward to shade,

Destruction before me, and sorrow  
behind.

' O, pity, great Father of light, ' then I  
cried,

' Thy creature, that fain would not  
wander from Thee :

Lo, humbled in dust, I relinquish my  
pride :

From doubt and from darkness Thou  
only canst free ! '

" And darkness and doubt are now flying  
away ;

No longer I roam in conjecture for-  
lorn :

So breaks on the traveller, faint and  
astray,

The bright and the balmy effulgence of  
morn.

See Truth, Love, and Mercy, in triumph  
descending,

And Nature all glowing in Eden's first  
bloom !

On the cold cheek of Death smiles and  
roses are blending,

And Beauty immortal awakes from the  
tomb ! "

[OLIVER GOLDSMITH. 1728—1774]

### THE DESERTED VILLAGE.

SWEET Auburn ! loveliest village of the  
plain,

Where health and plenty cheer'd the  
labouring swain,

Where smiling spring its earliest visit  
paid

And parting summer's ling'ring blooms  
delay'd ;

Dear lovely bowers of innocence and  
ease,

Seats of my youth, when every sport  
could please ;

How often have I loiter'd o'er thy green,  
Where humble happiness endear'd each  
scene ;

How often have I paus'd on every  
charm,

The shelter'd cot, the cultivated farm,  
The never-failing brook, the busy mill,

The decent church that topt the neigh-  
b'ring hill,

The hawthorn bush, with seats beneath  
the shade,

For talking age and whisp'ring lovers  
made !

How often have I blest the coming day,  
When toil remitting lent its turn to play,

And all the village train, from labour  
free,

Led up their sports beneath the spreading  
tree,

While many a pastime circled in the  
shade,

The young contending as the old sur-  
vey'd ;

And many a gambol frolick'd o'er the  
ground,

And sleights of art and feats of strength  
went round ;

And still as each repeated pleasure tired,

Succeeding sports the mirthful band inspired.  
 The dancing pair that simply sought renown,  
 By holding out, to tire each other down ;  
 The swain mistrustless of his smutt'd face,  
 While secret laughter titter'd round the place ;  
 The bashful virgin's sidelong looks of love,  
 The matron's glance that would those looks reprove—  
 These were thy charms, sweet village ! sports like these,  
 With sweet succession, taught ev'n toil to please ;  
 These round thy bowers their cheerful influence shed,  
 These were thy charms—But all these charms are fled.

Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,  
 Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn ;  
 Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is seen,  
 And desolation saddens all thy green :  
 One only master grasps the whole domain,  
 And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain ;  
 No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,  
 But, chok'd with sedges, works its weedy way ;  
 Along thy glades, a solitary guest,  
 The hollow-sounding bittern guards its nest ;  
 Amidst thy desert walks the lapwing flies,  
 And tires their echoes with unvaried cries.  
 Sunk are thy bowers in shapeless ruin all,  
 And the long grass o'ertops the mould'ring wall ;  
 And, trembling, shrinking from the spoiler's hand,  
 Far, far away thy children leave the land.

Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey,  
 Where wealth accumulates, and men decay ;  
 Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade ;

A breath can make them, as a breath has made ;  
 But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
 When once destroy'd, can never be supplied.

A time there was, ere England's griefs began,  
 When every rood of ground maintain'd its man ;  
 For him light labour spread her wholesome store,  
 Just gave what life required, but gave no more :  
 His best companions, innocence and health,  
 And his best riches, ignorance of wealth.

But times are alter'd ; trade's unfeeling train  
 Usurp the land, and dispossess the swain ;  
 Along the lawn, where scatter'd hamlets rose,  
 Unwieldy wealth and cumb'rous pomp repose :  
 And every want to luxury allied,  
 And every pang that folly pays to pride.  
 Those gentle hours that plenty bade to bloom,  
 Those calm desires that ask'd but little room,  
 Those healthful sports that graced the peaceful scene,  
 Lived in each look, and brighten'd all the green ;  
 These, far departing, seek a kinder shore,  
 And rural mirth and manners are no more.

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF HOME AND INFANCY.

SWEET Auburn ! parent of the blissful hour,  
 Thy glades forlorn confess the tyrant's power.  
 Here, as I take my solitary rounds,  
 Amidst thy tangling walks, and ruin'd grounds,  
 And, many a year elapsed, return to view  
 Where once the cottage stood, the hawthorn grew,

Remembrance wakes with all her busy  
train,  
Swells at my breast, and turns the past  
to pain.

In all my wand'rings round this world  
of care,  
In all my griefs—and God has giv'n my  
share—  
I still had hopes my latest hours to crown,  
Amidst these humble bowers to lay me  
down;  
To husband out life's taper at the close,  
And keep the flame from wasting by re-  
pose:  
I still had hopes, for pride attends us still,  
Amidst the swains to show my book-  
learn'd skill,  
Around my fire an evening group to draw,  
And tell of all I felt, and all I saw;  
And, as an hare whom hounds and horns  
pursue,  
Pants to the place from whence at first he  
flew,  
I still had hopes, my long vexations past,  
Here to return—and die at home at last.

O blest retirement, friend to life's  
decline,  
Retreats from care that never must be  
mine,  
How blest is he who crowns in shades  
like these,  
A youth of labour with an age of ease;  
Who quits a world where strong tempta-  
tions try,  
And, since 'tis hard to combat, learns to  
fly!  
For him no wretches, born to work and  
weep,  
Explore the mine, or tempt the dang'rous  
veep;  
No urchin porter stands in guilty state,  
To purrn imploring famine from the gate;  
But on he moves to meet his latter end,  
Angels around befriending virtue's friend;  
Sinks to the grave with unperceived decay,  
While resignation gently slopes the way;  
And, all his prospects bright'ning to the  
last,  
His heaven commences ere the world be  
past!

Sweet was the sound, when, oft at  
evening's close,  
Up yonder hill the village murmur rose:  
There, as I past with careless steps and  
slow,  
The mingling notes came soften'd from  
below;  
The swain, responsive as the milkmaid  
sung,  
The sober herd that low'd to meet their  
young,  
The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the  
pool,  
The playful children just let loose from  
school,  
The watch-dog's voice that bay'd the  
whisp'ring wind,  
And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant  
mind;  
These all in sweet confusion sought the  
shade,  
And fill'd each pause the nightingale had  
made.  
But now the sounds of population fail,  
No cheerful murmurs fluctuate in the gale,  
No busy steps the grass-grown foot-way  
tread,  
But all the blooming flush of life is fled.  
All but yon widow'd, solitary thing,  
That feebly bends beside the plashy  
spring;  
She, wretched matron, forced in age, for  
bread,  
To strip the brook with mantling cresses  
spread,  
To pick her wint'ry faggot from the  
thorn,  
To seek her nightly shed, and weep till  
morn;  
She only left of all the harmless train,  
The sad historian of the pensive plain.

#### THE VILLAGE PASTOR.

NEAR yonder copse, where once the gar-  
den smiled  
And still where many a garden flower  
grows wild;  
There, where a few torn shrubs the place  
disclose,  
The village preacher's modest mansion  
rose.





THE VILLAGE PASTOR (GOLDSMITH).

The long remember'd beggar was his guest,  
Whose beard descending swept his aged breast.—P. 171.

A man he was to all the country dear,  
 And passing rich with forty pounds a  
 year;  
 Remote from towns he ran his godly race,  
 Nor e'er had chang'd, nor wish'd to  
 change his place;  
 Unskilful he to fawn, or seek for power,  
 By doctrines fashion'd to the varying  
 hour;  
 Far other aims his heart had learn'd to  
 prize,  
 More bent to raise the wretched than to  
 rise.  
 His house was known to all the vagrant  
 train,  
 He chid their wand'rings, but relieved  
 their pain;  
 The long remember'd beggar was his  
 guest,  
 Whose beard descending swept his aged  
 breast;  
 The ruin'd spendthrift, now no longer  
 proud,  
 Claim'd kindred there, and had his claims  
 allow'd;  
 The broken soldier, kindly bade to stay,  
 Sat by his fire, and talk'd the night away;  
 Wept o'er his wounds, or, tales of sorrow  
 done,  
 Shoulder'd his crutch, and show'd how  
 fields were won.  
 Pleased with his guests, the good man  
 learn'd to glow,  
 And quite forgot their vices in their woe;  
 Careless their merits or their faults to  
 scan,  
 His pity gave ere charity began.

Thus to relieve the wretched was his  
 pride,  
 And even his failings lean'd to virtue's  
 side;  
 But in his duty prompt at every call,  
 He watch'd and wept, he pray'd and felt  
 for all;  
 And, as a bird each fond endearment  
 tries,  
 To tempt its new-fledged offspring to the  
 skies;  
 He tried each art, reprov'd each dull  
 delay,  
 Allured to brighter worlds, and led the  
 way.

Beside the bed where parting life was  
 laid,  
 And sorrow, guilt, and pain, by turns  
 dismay'd,  
 The rev'rend champion stood. At his  
 control,  
 Despair and anguish fled the struggling  
 soul;  
 Comfort came down the trembling wretch  
 to raise,  
 And his last falt'ring accents whisper'd  
 praise.

At church, with meek and unaffected  
 grace,  
 His looks adorn'd the venerable place;  
 Truth from his lips prevail'd with double  
 sway,  
 And fools, who came to scoff, remained  
 to pray.  
 The service past, around the pious man,  
 With ready zeal, each honest rustic ran;  
 Even children follow'd, with endearing  
 wile,  
 And pluck'd his gown, to share the good  
 man's smile.  
 His ready smile a parent's warmth ex-  
 prest,  
 Their welfare pleas'd him, and their cares  
 distrest;  
 To them his heart, his love, his griefs  
 were given,  
 But all his serious thoughts had rest in  
 heaven.  
 As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,  
 Swells from the vale, and midway leaves  
 the storm,  
 Though round its breast the rolling clouds  
 are spread,  
 Eternal sunshine settles on its head.

#### THE VILLAGE SCHOOLMASTER AND THE VILLAGE INN.

BESIDE yon straggling fence that skirts  
 the way,  
 With blossom'd furze unprofitably gay,  
 There, in his noisy mansion, skill'd to  
 rule,  
 The village master taught his little school;  
 A man severe he was, and stern to view,  
 I knew him well, and every truant knew



Well had the boding tremblers learn'd to trace,  
 The day's disasters in his morning face ;  
 Full well they laugh'd with counterfeited  
 \*glee  
 At all his jokes, for many a joke had he ;  
 Full well the busy whisper circling round,  
 Convey'd the dismal tidings when he  
 frown'd ;  
 Yet he was kind, or if severe in ought,  
 The love he bore to learning was in fault ;  
 The village all declared how much he  
 knew ;  
 'Twas certain he could write, and cypher  
 too ;  
 Lands he could measure, terms and tides  
 presage,  
 And even the story ran that he could  
 'gauge :  
 In arguing too, the parson own'd his skill,  
 For even though vanquish'd, he could  
 argue still ;  
 While words of learned length, and  
 thund'ring sound,  
 Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around,  
 And still they gazed, and still the wonder  
 grew,  
 That one small head could carry all he  
 knew.

But past is all his fame. The very  
 spot  
 Where many a time he triumph'd, is  
 forgot.  
 Near yonder thorn, that lifts its head on  
 high,  
 Where once the sign-post caught the  
 passing eye,  
 Low lies that house where nut-brown  
 draughts inspired,  
 Where grey-beard mirth and smiling toil  
 retired,  
 Where village statesmen talk'd with looks  
 profound,  
 And news much older than their ale went  
 round.  
 Imagination fondly stoops to trace  
 The parlour splendours of that festive  
 place ;  
 The white-wash'd wall, the nicely sanded  
 floor,  
 The varnish'd clock that click'd behind  
 the door ;

The chest contrived a double debt to pay,  
 A bed by night, a chest of drawers by  
 day ;  
 The pictures placed for ornament and use,  
 The twelve good rules, the royal game of  
 goose ;  
 The hearth, except when winter chill'd  
 the day,  
 With aspin boughs and flowers and fennel  
 gay,  
 While broken tea-cups, wisely kept for  
 show,  
 Ranged o'er the chimney, glisten'd in a  
 row.

Vain transitory splendour ! could not  
 all [fall ?  
 Reprieve the tott'ring mansion from its  
 Obscure it sinks, nor shall it more impart  
 An hour's importance to the poor man's  
 heart.

#### THE EXILES.

WHERE, then, ah ! where shall poverty  
 reside,  
 To 'scape the pressure of contiguous  
 pride ?  
 If to some common's fenceless limits  
 stray'd,  
 He drives his flock to pick the scanty  
 blade,  
 Those fenceless fields the sons of wealth  
 divide,  
 And even the bare-worn common 'is  
 denied.

If to the city sped, what waits him  
 there ?  
 To see profusion that he must not share ;  
 To see ten thousand baneful arts com-  
 bined  
 To pamper luxury, and thin mankind ;  
 To see each joy the sons of pleasure know,  
 Extorted from his fellow-creatures' woe.  
 Here, while the courtier glitters in bro-  
 cade,  
 There the pale artist plies the sickly  
 trade ;  
 Here while the proud their long-drawn  
 pomps display,  
 There the black gibbet glooms beside the  
 way ;

The dome where pleasure holds her mid-  
 night reign,  
 Here, richly deck'd, admits the gorgeous  
 train;  
 Tumultuous grandeur crowds the blazing  
 square,  
 The rattling chariots clash, the torches  
 glare.  
 Sure scenes like these no troubles e'er  
 annoy !  
 Sure these denote one universal joy !—  
 Are these thy serious thoughts ? ah, turn  
 thine eyes  
 Where the poor houseless shivering female  
 lies.  
 She once, perhaps, in village plenty  
 bless'd,  
 Has wept at tales of innocence distress'd ;  
 Her modest looks the cottage might adorn,  
 Sweet as the primrose peeps beneath the  
 thorn.  
 Now lost to all, her friends, her virtue  
 fled,  
 Near her betrayer's door she lays her  
 head,  
 And, pinch'd with cold, and shrinking  
 from the shower  
 With heavy heart deplores that luckless  
 hour,  
 When, idly first, ambitious of the town,  
 She left her wheel, and robes of country  
 brown.

Do thine, sweet Auburn, thine, the  
 loveliest train,  
 Do thy fair tribes participate her pain ?  
 Even now, perhaps, by cold and hunger  
 led,  
 At proud men's doors they ask a little  
 bread !

Ah, no. To distant climes, a dreary  
 scene,  
 Where half the convex world intrudes be-  
 tween,  
 Through torrid tracts with fainting steps  
 they go,  
 Where wild Altama murmurs to their  
 woe.  
 Far different there from all that charm'd  
 before,  
 The various terrors of that horrid shore ;

Those blazing suns that dart a downward  
 ray,  
 And fiercely shed intolerable day ;  
 Those matted woods where birds forget  
 to sing,  
 But silent bats in drowsy clusters cling ;  
 Those poisonous fields with rank luxu-  
 riance crown'd,  
 Where the dark scorpion gathers death  
 around ;  
 Where at each step the stranger fears to  
 wake  
 The rattling terrors of the vengeful snake ;  
 Where crouching tigers wait their hapless  
 prey,  
 And savage men more murderous still  
 than they ;  
 While oft in whirls the mad tornado flies,  
 Ming'ling the ravaged landscape with the  
 skies.  
 Far different these from every former  
 scene,  
 The cooling brook, the grassy-vested  
 green ;  
 The breezy covert of the warbling grove,  
 That only shelter'd thefts of harmless  
 love.

Good Heaven ! what sorrows gloom'd  
 that parting day,  
 That call'd them from their native walks  
 away ;  
 When the poor exiles, every pleasure past,  
 Hung round the bowers, and fondly  
 look'd their last,  
 And took a long farewell, and wish'd in  
 vain  
 For seats like these beyond the western  
 main ;  
 And shuddering still to face the distant  
 deep,  
 Return'd and wept, and still return'd to  
 weep !  
 The good old sire, the first, prepared to  
 go  
 To new-found worlds, and wept for  
 others' woe :  
 But for himself, in conscious virtue brave,  
 He only wish'd for worlds beyond the  
 grave.  
 His lovely daughter, lovelier in her tears,  
 The fond companion of his helpless  
 years,

Silent went next, neglectful of her charms,  
 And left a lover's for a father's arms.  
 With louder plaints the mother spoke her  
 woes,  
 And bless'd the cot where every pleasure  
 rose ;  
 And kiss'd her thoughtless babes with  
 many a tear,  
 And clasp'd them close, in sorrow doubly  
 dear ;  
 Whilst her fond husband strove to lend  
 relief  
 In all the silent manliness of grief.—  
 O luxury ; thou cursed by Heaven's  
 decree,  
 How ill exchanged are things like these  
 for thee !  
 How do thy potions, with insidious joy,  
 Diffuse their pleasures only to destroy !  
 Kingdoms by thee, to sickly greatness  
 grown,  
 Boast of a florid vigour not their own ;  
 At every draught more large and large  
 they grow,  
 A bloated mass of rank unwieldy wo ;  
 Till sapp'd their strength, and every part  
 unsound,  
 Down, down they sink, and spread a ruin  
 round.

Even now the devastation is begun,  
 And half the business of destruction done ;  
 Even now, methinks, as pondering here I  
 stand,  
 I see the rural Virtues leave the land.  
 Down where yon anchoring vessel spreads  
 the sail,  
 That idly waiting flaps with every gale,  
 Downward they move, a melancholy  
 band,  
 Pass from the shore, and darken all the  
 strand.  
 Contented Toil, and hospitable Care,  
 And kind connubial Tenderness, are  
 there :  
 And Piety with wishes placed above,  
 And steady Loyalty and faithful Love.  
 And thou, sweet Poetry, thou loveliest  
 maid,  
 Still first to fly where sensual joys invade ;  
 Unfit in these degenerate times of shame,  
 To catch the heart, or strike for honest  
 fame ;

Dear charming nymph, neglected and  
 decried,  
 My shame in crowds, my solitary pride ;  
 Thou source of all my bliss, and all my  
 wo,  
 Thou found'st me poor at first, and  
 keep'st me so :  
 Thou guide by which the nobler arts  
 excel,  
 Thou nurse of every virtue, fare thee well.

### THE TRAVELLER.

REMOTE, unfriended, melancholy, slow,  
 Or by the lazy Scheld, or wandering Po ;  
 Or onward, where the rude Carinthian  
 boor  
 Against the houseless stranger shuts the  
 door ;  
 Or where Campania's plain forsaken lies,  
 A weary waste expanding to the skies :  
 Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,  
 My heart, untravell'd, fondly turns to  
 thee : [pain,  
 Still to my brother turns, with ceaseless  
 And drags at each remove a lengthening  
 chain.

Eternal blessings crown my earliest  
 friend,  
 And round his dwelling guardian saints  
 attend ;  
 Bless'd be that spot, where cheerful guests  
 retire  
 To pause from toil, and trim their evening  
 fire :  
 Bless'd that abode, where want and pain  
 repair,  
 And every stranger finds a ready chair ;  
 Bless'd be those feasts with simple plenty  
 crown'd,  
 Where all the ruddy family around  
 Laugh at the jests or pranks that never  
 fail,  
 Or sigh with pity at some mournful tale ;  
 Or press the bashful stranger to his food,  
 And learn the luxury of doing good.

But me, not destined such delights to  
 share,  
 My prime of life in wandering spent and  
 care ;

Impell'd with steps uncessing to pursue  
Some fleeting good, that mocks me with  
the view :

That, like the circle bounding earth and  
skies,

Allures from far, yet, as I follow, flies ;  
My fortune leads to traverse realms alone,  
And find no spot of all the world my  
own.

Even now, where Alpine solitudes  
ascend,

I sit me down a pensive hour to spend :  
And, plac'd on high, above the storm's  
career,

Look downward where an hundred realms  
appear ;

Lakes, forests, cities, plains extending  
wide,

The pomp of kings, the shepherd's  
humbler pride.

When thus creation's charms around  
combine,  
Amidst the store, should thankless pride  
repine ?

Say, should the philosophic mind disdain  
That good which makes each humbler  
bosom vain ?

Let school-taught pride dissemble all it  
can,

These little things are great to little man ;  
And wiser he, whose sympathetic mind  
Exults in all the good of all mankind.

Ye glittering towns, with wealth and  
spendour crown'd ;

Ye fields, where summer spreads profusion  
round ;

Ye lakes, whose vessels catch the busy  
gale ;

Ye bending swains, that dress the flowery  
vale ;

For me your tributary stores combine ;  
Creation's heir, the world, the world is  
mine !

As some lone miser, visiting his store,  
Bends at his treasure, counts, recounts it  
o'er :

Hoards after hoards his rising raptures  
fill,

Yet still he sighs, for hoards are wanting  
still ;

Thus to my breast alternate passions rise,  
Pleased with each good that Heaven to  
man supplies ;

Yet oft a sigh prevails, and sorrows fall,  
To see the hoard of human bliss so small ;  
And oft I wish, amidst the scene, to find  
Some spot to real happiness consign'd,  
Where my worn soul, each wandering  
hope at rest ;

May gather bliss, to see my fellows  
bless'd.

But where to find that happiest spot  
below,  
Who can direct, when all pretend to  
know ?

The shuddering tenant of the frigid zone  
Boldly proclaims that happiest spot his  
own ;

Extols the treasures of his stormy seas,  
And his long nights of revelry and ease ;  
The naked negro, panting at the line,  
Boasts of his golden sands and palmy  
wine,

Basks in the glare, or stems the tepid  
wave,

And thanks his gods for all the good they  
gave.

Such is the patriot's boast where'er we  
roam,

His first, best country, ever is at home.  
And yet, perhaps, if countries we com-  
pare,

And estimate the blessings which they  
share,

Though patriots flatter, still shall wisdom  
find

An equal portion dealt to all mankind :  
As different good, by art or nature given,

To different nations makes their blessings  
even.

#### CHARACTER OF THE ITALIANS.

FAR to the right, where Appenine ascends,  
Bright as the summer, Italy extends :

Its uplands sloping deck the mountain's  
side,

Woods over woods in gay theatric pride :  
While oft some temple's mouldering tops  
between

With venerable grandeur mark the scene.

Could Nature's bounty satisfy the breast,  
The sons of Italy were surely bless'd.

Whatever fruits in different climes are  
found,

That proudly rise, or humbly court the  
ground ;

Whatever blooms in torrid tracts appear,  
Whose bright succession decks the varied  
year ;

Whatever sweets salute the northern  
sky

With vernal lives, that blossom but to  
die ;

These here disporting, own the kindred  
soil,

Nor ask luxuriance from the planter's  
toil ;

While sea-born gales their gelid wings  
expand

To winnow fragrance round the smiling  
land.

But small the bliss that sense alone  
bestows,

And sensual bliss is all the nation knows.  
In florid beauty groves and fields appear,

Man seems the only growth that dwindles  
here.

Contrasted faults through all his manners  
reign ;

Though poor, luxurious ; though submis-  
sive, vain ;

Though grave, yet trifling ; zealous, yet  
untrue ;

And even in penance planning sins anew.  
All evils here contaminate the mind,

That opulence departed leaves behind ;  
For wealth was theirs, not far removed  
the date,

When commerce proudly flourish'd  
through the state ;

At her command the palace learn'd to  
rise,

Again the long-fall'n column sought the  
skies,

The canvas glow'd, beyond e'en Nature  
warm,

The pregnant quarry teem'd with human  
form :

Till, more unsteady than the southern  
gale,

Commerce on other shores display'd her  
sail ;

While nought remain'd of all that riches  
gave,

But towns unmann'd, and lords without a  
slave :

And late the nation found, with fruitless  
skill,

Its former strength was but plethoric ill.

Yet, still the loss of wealth is here sup-  
plied

By arts, the splendid wrecks of former  
pride ;

From these the feeble heart and long-  
fall'n mind

An easy compensation seem to find.

Here may be seen, in bloodless pomp  
array'd,

The pasteboard triumph and the caval-  
cade :

By sports like these are all their cares  
beguiled ;

The sports of children satisfy the child :  
Each nobler aim, repress'd by long con-  
trol,

Now sinks at last, or feebly mans the  
soul ;

While low delights, succeeding fast be-  
hind,

In happier meanness occupy the mind :  
As in those domes, where Cesars once

bore sway,

Defaced by time, and tottering in decay,  
There in the ruin, heedless of the dead,

The shelter-seeking peasant builds his  
shed ;

And, wondering man could want the  
larger pile,

Exults, and owns his cottage with a  
smile.

#### CHARACTER OF THE SWISS.

MY soul turn from them ;—turn we to  
survey

Where rougher climes a nobler race dis-  
play,

Where the bleak Swiss their stormy man-  
sion tread,

And force a churlish soil for scanty bread ;  
No product here the barren hills afford

But man and steel, the soldier and his  
sword :

No vernal blooms their torpid rocks array,  
But winter lingering chills the lap of  
May;  
No zephyr fondly sues the mountain's  
breast,  
But meteors glare, and stormy glooms  
invest.

Yet still, even here, content can spread  
a charm,  
Redress the clime, and all its rage disarm  
Though poor the peasant's hut, his feasts  
though small,

He sees his little lot the lot of all,  
Sees no contiguous palace rear its head,  
To shame the meanness of his humble  
shed;

No costly lord the sumptuous banquet  
deal,

\* To make him loth his vegetable meal;  
But calm, and bred in ignorance and toil,  
Each wish contracting, fits him to the  
soil.

Cheerful at morn, he wakes from short  
repose,

Breathes the keen air, and carols as he  
goes;

With patient angle trolls the finny deep,  
Or drives his venturous ploughshare to the  
steep;

Or seeks the den where snow-tracks mark  
the way,

And drags the struggling savage into day.  
At night returning, every labour sped,

He sits him down the monarch of a  
shed;

Smiles by his cheerful fire, and round  
surveys

His children's looks, that brighten at the  
blaze;

While his loved partner, boastful of her  
hoard,

Displays her cleanly platter on the board  
And, haply too, some pilgrim thither led,  
With many a tale repays the nightly bed.

Thus every good his native wilds im-  
part,

Imprints the patriot passion on his heart,  
And ev'n those hills, that round his man-  
sion rise,

Enhance the bliss his scanty fund sup-  
plies:

Dear is that shed to which his soul con-  
forms,

And dear that hill which lifts him to the  
storms;

And as a child, when' scaring sounds  
molest,

Clings close and closer to the mother's  
breast,

So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's  
roar,

But bind him to his native mountains  
more.

#### CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH.

To kinder skies, where gentler manners  
reign,

I turn, and France displays her bright  
domain

Gay sprightly land of mirth and social  
ease,

Pleased with thyself, whom all the world  
can please,

How often have I led thy sporting choir,  
With tuneless pipe, beside the murmuring

Loire,

Where shading elms along the margin  
grew,

And freshen'd from the wave the zephyr  
flew,

And haply, though my harsh touch  
falt ring stul,

But mock'd all tune, and marr'd the  
dancers' skill,

Yet would the village praise my wondrous  
power,

And dance forgetful of the noon-tide  
hour

Alike all ages. Dames of ancient days  
Have led their children through the mirth-  
ful maze,

And the gay grandsire, skill'd in gestic  
lore,

Has frisk'd beneath the burden of three-  
score.

So blest a life these thoughtless realms  
display,

Thus idly busy rolls their world away:  
Theirs are those arts that mind to mind

endear,  
For honour forms the social temper here

Honour, that praise which real merit gains,  
 Or even imaginary worth obtains,  
 Here passes current; paid from hand to hand,  
 It shifts in splendid traffic round the land:  
 From courts to camps, to cottages it strays,  
 And all are taught an avarice of praise;  
 They please, are pleased, they give to get esteem,  
 Till, seeming blest, they grow to what they seem.

But while this softer art their bliss supplies,  
 It gives their follies also room to rise:  
 For praise too dearly loved, or warmly sought,  
 Enfeebles all internal strength of thought;  
 And the weak soul, within itself unblest,  
 Leans for all pleasure on another's breast.  
 Hence ostentation here, with tawdry art,  
 Pants for the vulgar praise which fools impart;  
 Here vanity assumes her pert grimace,  
 And trims her robe of frieze with copper lace;  
 Here beggar pride defrauds her daily cheer,  
 To boast one splendid banquet once a year  
 The mind still turns where shifting fashion draws,  
 Nor weighs the solid worth of self-applause.

#### CONCLUSION OF THE TRAVELLER.

HAVE we not seen, round Britain's peopled shore,  
 Her useful sons exchanged for useless ore?  
 Seen all her triumphs but destruction haste,  
 Like flaring tapers bright'ning as they waste;  
 Seen opulence, her grandeur to maintain,  
 Lead stern depopulation in her train,  
 And over fields where scatter'd hamlets rose,  
 In barren solitary pomp repose?

Have we not seen at pleasure's lordly call,  
 The smiling long-frequented village fall?  
 Beheld the duteous son, the sire decay'd,  
 The modest matron, and the blushing maid,  
 Forced from their homes, a melancholy train,  
 To traverse climes beyond the western main;  
 Where wild Oswego spreads her swamps around,  
 And Niagara stuns with thund'ring sound?

Even now, perhaps, as there some pilgrim strays  
 Through tangled forests, and through dangerous ways;  
 Where beasts with man divided empire claim,  
 And the brown Indian marks with murder's aim;  
 There, while above the giddy tempest flies,  
 And all around distressful yells arise,  
 The pensive exile, bending with his woe,  
 To stop too fearful, and too faint to go,  
 Casts a long look where England's glories shine,  
 And bids his bosom sympathise with mine.

Vain, very vain, my weary search to find  
 That bliss which only centres in the mind;  
 Why have I stray'd, from pleasure and repose,  
 To seek a good each government bestows?  
 In every government, though terrors reign,  
 Though tyrant kings, or tyrant laws restrain,  
 How small of all that human hearts endure,  
 That part which laws or kings can cause or cure!  
 Still to ourselves in every place consign'd,  
 Our own felicity we make or find.  
 With secret course, which no loud storm annoys,  
 Glides the smooth current of domestic joy.

The lifted axe, the agonising wheel,  
 Luke's iron crown, and Damien's bed of  
 steel,  
 To men remote from power but rarely  
 known,  
 Leave reason, faith, and conscience, all  
 our own.

~~~~~  
 THE WRETCH, CONDEMNED
 WITH LIFE TO PART.

THE wretch, condemn'd with life to part,
 Still, still on hope relies ;
 And every pang that rends the heart,
 Bids expectation rise.

Hope, like the glimm'ring taper's light,
 Adorns and cheers the way ;
 And still, as darker grows the night,
 Emits a brighter ray.

~~~~~  
 EDWIN AND ANGELINA.

"TURN, gentle hermit of the dale,  
 And guide my lonely way  
 To where yon taper cheers the vale  
 With hospitable ray.

"For here forlorn and lost I tread,  
 With fainting steps and slow ;  
 Where wilds, unmeasurably spread,  
 Seem lengthening as I go."

"Forbear, my son," the hermit cries,  
 "To tempt the dangerous gloom ;  
 For yonder faithless phantom flies  
 To lure thee to thy doom.

"Here to the houseless child of want  
 My door is open still ;  
 And though my portion is but scant,  
 I give it with good will.

"Then turn to-night, and freely share  
 What'er my cell bestows ;  
 My rushy couch and frugal fare,  
 My blessing, and repose.

'No flocks that range the valley free  
 To slaughter I condemn ;  
 Taught by that Power that pities me,  
 I learn to pity them.

"But from the mountain's grassy side  
 A guiltless feast I bring ;  
 A scrip with herbs and fruits supplied,  
 And water from the spring.

"Then, pilgrim, turn, thy cares forego,  
 All earth-born cares are wrong ;  
 Man wants but little here below,  
 Nor wants that little long."

Soft as the dew from heaven descends,  
 His gentle accents fell ;  
 The modest stranger lowly bends,  
 And follows to the cell.

Far in a wilderness obscure  
 The lonely mansion lay ;  
 A refuge to the neighbouring poor,  
 And strangers led astray.

No stores beneath its humble thatch  
 Required a master's care ;  
 The wicket, opening with a latch,  
 Received the harmless pair.

And now, when busy crowds retire  
 To take their evening rest,  
 The hermit trimm'd his little fire,  
 And cheer'd his pensive guest :

And spread his vegetable store,  
 And gaily press'd, and smiled ;  
 And, skill'd in legendary lore,  
 The lingering hours beguiled.

Around, in sympathetic mirth,  
 Its tricks the kitten tries ;  
 The cricket chirrups in the hearth,  
 The crackling faggot flies.

But nothing could a charm impart  
 To soothe the stranger's woe ;  
 For grief was heavy at his heart,  
 And tears began to flow.

His rising cares the hermit spied,  
 With answering care oppress :  
 "And whence, unhappy youth," he cried  
 "The sorrows of thy breast ?

"From better habitations spurn'd,  
 Reluctant dost thou rove ?  
 Or grieve for friendship unreturn'd,  
 Or unregarded love ?



"Alas ! the joys that fortune brings  
Are trifling, and decay ;  
And those who prize the paltry things,  
More trifling still than they.

"And what is friendship but a name,  
A charm that lulls to sleep ;  
A shade that follows wealth or fame,  
But leaves the wretch to weep ?

"And love is still an emptier sound,  
The modern fair one's jest ;  
On earth unseen, or only found  
To warm the turtle's nest.

"For shame, fond youth, thy sorrows hush,  
And spurn the sex," he said :  
But while he spoke, a rising blush  
His love-lorn guest betrayed

Surprised he sees new beauties rise,  
Swift mantling to the view ;  
Like colours o'er the morning skies,  
As bright, as transient too.

The bashful look, the rising breast,  
Alternate spread alarms ;  
The lovely stranger stands confest  
A maid in all her charms !

And, "Ah, forgive a stranger rude,  
A wretch forlorn," she cried ;  
"Wise feet unhallow'd thus intrude  
Where heaven and you reside.

"But let a maid thy pity share,  
Whom love has taught to stray ;  
Who seeks for rest, and finds despair  
Companion of her way.

"My father lived beside the Tyne,  
A wealthy lord was he ,  
And all his wealth was mark'd as mine ;  
He had but only me.

"To win me from his tender arms,  
Unnumber'd suitors came ;  
Who praised me for imputed charms,  
And felt, or feign'd, a flame.

"Each hour a mercenary crowd  
With richest proffers strove ;  
Among the rest young Edwin bow'd,  
But never talk'd of love.

"In humble, simplest habit clad,  
No wealth nor power had he ;  
Wisdom and worth were all he had,  
But these were all to me.

"The blossom opening to the day,  
The dews of heaven refined,  
Could nought of purity display,  
To emulate his mind.

"The dew, the blossom on the tree,  
With charms inconstant shine ;  
Their charms were his, but, woe is me,  
Their constancy was mine !

"For still I tried each fickle art,  
Importunate and vain :  
And while his passion touch'd my heart,  
I triumph'd in his pain.

"Till quite dejected with my scorn,  
He left me to my pride ;  
And sought a solitude forlorn,  
In secret, where he died.

"But mine the sorrow, mine the fault,  
And well my life shall pay ;  
I'll seek the solitude he sought,  
And stretch me where he lay.

"And there forlorn, despairing, hid,  
I'll lay me down and die ;  
'Twas so for me that Edwin did,  
And so for him will I."

"Forbid it, Heaven !" the hermit cried,  
And clasp'd her to his breast :  
The wond'ring fair one turn'd to chide--  
'Twas Edwin's self that prest !

"Turn, Angelina, ever dear,  
My charmer, turn to see  
Thy own, thy long-lost Edwin here,  
Restored to love and thee !

"Thus let me hold thee to my heart,  
And every care resign :  
And shall we never, never part,  
My life—my all that's mine ?

"No, never from this hour to part,  
We'll live and love so true ;  
The sigh that rends thy constant heart,  
Shall break thy Edwin's too."

[TOMAS SMOLLETT. 1751-1771.]

## THE TEARS OF SCOTLAND.

MOURN, hapless Caledonia, mourn  
 Thy banish'd peace, thy laurels torn !  
 Thy sons, for valour long renown'd,  
 Lie slaughter'd on their native ground ;  
 Thy hospitable roofs, no more  
 Invite the stranger to the door ;  
 In smoky ruins sunk they lie,  
 The monuments of cruelty.

The wretched owner sees afar  
 His all become the prey of war ;  
 Bethinks him of his babes and wife,  
 Then smites his breast, and curses life.  
 Thy swains are famish'd on the rocks,  
 Where once they fed their wanton flocks :  
 Thy ravish'd virgins shriek in vain ;  
 Thy infants perish on the plain.

What boots it, then, in every clime,  
 Through the wide-spreading waste of  
 time,

Thy martial glory, crown'd with praise,  
 Still shone with undiminish'd blaze !  
 Thy tow'ring spirit now is broke,  
 Thy neck is bended to the yoke.  
 What foreign arms could never quell,  
 By civil rage and rancour fell.

The rural pipe and merry lay  
 No more shall cheer the happy day :  
 No social scenes of gay delight  
 Beguile the dreary winter night :  
 No strains but those of sorrow flow,  
 And nought be heard but sounds of woe,  
 While the pale phantoms of the slain  
 Glide nightly o'er the silent plain.

O baneful cause ! oh, fatal morn !  
 Accurs'd to ages yet unborn !  
 The sons against their father stood,  
 The parent shed his children's blood.  
 Yet, when the rage of battle ceased,  
 The victor's soul was not appeased :  
 The naked and forlorn must feel  
 Devouring flames and murder's steel !

The pious mother, doom'd to death,  
 Forsaken wanders o'er the heath ;  
 The bleak wind whistles round her head,  
 Her helpless orphans cry for bread ;

Bereft of shelter, food, and friend,  
 She views the shades of night descend ;  
 And stretch'd beneath th' inclement skies,  
 Weeps o'er her tender babes, and dies.

While the warm blood bedews my veins,  
 And unimpair'd remembrance reigns,  
 Resentment of my country's fate,  
 Within my filial breast shall beat ;  
 And, spite of her insulting foe,  
 My sympathising verse shall flow :  
 " Mourn, hapless Caledonia, mourn  
 Thy banish'd peace, thy laurels torn."

## INDEPENDENCE.

## STROPHE.

THY spirit, Independence, let me share,  
 Lord of the lion-heart and eagle-eye,  
 Thy steps I follow with my bosom bare,  
 Nor heed the storm that howls along the  
 sky.

Deep in the frozen regions of the north,  
 A goddess violated brought thee forth,  
 Immortal Liberty, whose look sublime  
 Hath bleach'd the tyrant's cheek in every  
 varying clime.

What time the iron-hearted Gaul,  
 With frantic superstition for his guide,  
 Arm'd with the dagger and the pall,  
 The sons of Woden to the field defied :  
 The ruthless hag, by Weser's flood,  
 In Heaven's name urged the infernal  
 blow,

And red the stream began to flow :  
 The vanquish'd were baptised with blood !

## ANTISTROPHE.

The Saxon prince in horror fled  
 From altars stain'd with human gore ;  
 And Liberty his routed legions led  
 In safety to the bleak Norwegian shore.  
 There in a cave asleep she lay,  
 Lull'd by the hoarse-resounding main ;  
 When a bold savage past that way,  
 Impell'd by destiny, his name Disdain.  
 Of ample front the portly chief appear'd :  
 The hunted bear supplied a shaggy vest ;  
 The drifted snow hung on his yellow  
 beard ;  
 And his broad shoulders braved the  
 furious blast.

"Alas ! the joys that fortune brings  
Are trifling, and decay ;  
And those who prize the paltry things,  
More trifling still than they.

"And what is friendship but a name,  
A charm that lulls to sleep :  
A shade that follows wealth or fame,  
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"And there forlorn, despairing, hid,  
I'll lay me down and die ;  
'Twas so for me that Edwin did,  
And so for him will I."

"Forbid it, Heaven !" the hermit cried,  
And clasp'd her to his breast :  
The wond'ring fair one turn'd to chide--  
'Twas Edwin's self that prest !

"Turn, Angelina, ever dear,  
My charmer, turn to see  
Thy own, thy long-lost Edwin here,  
Restored to love and thee !

"Thus let me hold thee to my heart,  
And every care resign :  
And shall we never, never part,  
My life—my all that's mine ?

"No, never from this hour to part,  
We'll live and love so true ;  
The sigh that rends thy constant heart,  
Shall break thy Edwin's too."

[TOBIAS SMOLLETT. 1721—1771.]

## THE TEARS OF SCOTLAND.

MOURN, hapless Caledonia, mourn  
 Thy banish'd peace, thy laurels torn !  
 Thy sons, for valour long renown'd,  
 Lie slaughter'd on their native ground ;  
 Thy hospitable roofs, no more  
 Invite the stranger to the door ;  
 In smoky ruins sunk they lie,  
 The monuments of cruelty.

The wretched owner sees afar  
 His all become the prey of war ;  
 Bethinks him of his babes and wife,  
 Then smites his breast, and curses life.  
 Thy swains are famish'd on the rocks,  
 Where once they fed their wanton flocks :  
 Thy ravish'd virgins shriek in vain ;  
 Thy infants perish on the plain.

What boots it, then, in every clime,  
 Thrown on the wide-spreading waste of  
 time,

Thy martial glory, crown'd with praise,  
 Still shone with undiminish'd blaze !  
 Thy tow'ring spirit now is broke,  
 Thy neck is bended to the yoke,  
 What foreign arms could never quell,  
 By civil rage and rancour fell.

The rural pipe and merry lay  
 No more shall cheer the happy day :  
 No social scenes of gay delight  
 Beguile the dreary winter night :  
 No strains but those of sorrow flow,  
 And nought be heard but sounds of woe,  
 While the pale phantoms of the slain  
 Glide nightly o'er the silent plain.

O baneful cause ! oh, fatal morn !  
 Accursed to ages yet unborn !  
 The sons against their father stood,  
 The parent shed his children's blood.  
 Yet, when the rage of battle ceased,  
 The victor's soul was not appeased :  
 The naked and forlorn must feel  
 Devouring flames and murd'ring steel !

The pious mother, doom'd to death,  
 Forsaken wanders o'er the heath ;  
 The bleak wind whistles round her head,  
 Her helpless orphans cry for bread ;

Bereft of shelter, food, and friend,  
 She views the shades of night descend ;  
 And stretch'd beneath th' inclement skies,  
 Weeps o'er her tender babes, and dies.

While the warm blood bedews my veins,  
 And unimpair'd remembrance reigns,  
 Resentment of my country's fate,  
 Within my filial breast shall beat ;  
 And, spite of her insulting foe,  
 My sympathising verse shall flow :  
 " Mourn, hapless Caledonia, mourn  
 Thy banish'd peace, thy laurels torn."

## INDEPENDENCE.

STROPHE.

THY spirit, Independence, let me share,  
 Lord of the lion-heart and eagle-eye,  
 Thy steps I follow with my bosom bare,  
 Nor heed the storm that howls along the  
 sky.

Deep in the frozen regions of the north,  
 A goddess violated brought thee forth,  
 Immortal Liberty, whose look sublime  
 Hath bleach'd the tyrant's cheek in every  
 varying clime.

What time the iron-hearted Gaul,  
 With frantic superstition for his guide,  
 Arm'd with the dagger and the pall,  
 The sons of Woden to the field defied :  
 The ruthless hag, by Weser's flood,  
 In Heaven's name urged the infernal  
 blow,  
 And red the stream began to flow :  
 The vanquish'd were baptised with blood !

ANISTROPHE.

The Saxon prince in horror fled  
 From altars stain'd with human gore ;  
 And Liberty his routed legions led  
 In safety to the bleak Norwegian shore.  
 There in a cave asleep she lay,  
 Lull'd by the hoarse-resounding main ;  
 When a bold savage past that way,  
 Impell'd by destiny, his name Disdain.  
 Of ample front the portly chief appear'd :  
 The hunted bear supplied a shaggy vest ;  
 The drifted snow hung on his yellow  
 beard ;  
 And his broad shoulders braved the  
 furious blast.

He stopt : he gazed ; his bosom glow'd,  
And deeply felt the impression of her  
charms :

He seized the advantage fate allow'd,  
And straight compressed her in his **vigorous**  
arms.

## STROPHE.

The curlew scream'd, the tritons blew  
Their shells to celebrate the ravish'd rite ;  
Old Time exulted as he flew ;  
And Independence saw the light.  
The light he saw in Albion's happy  
plains,

Where under cover of a flowering thorn,  
While Philomel renew'd her warbled  
strains, [born,

The auspicious fruit of stol'n embrace was  
The mountain dryads seized with joy,  
The smiling infant to their care consign'd ;

The Doric muse caress'd the favourite  
boy ;

The hermit Wisdom stored his opening  
mind.

As rolling years matured his age,  
He flourish'd bold and sinewy as his  
sire ;

While the mild passions in his breast  
assuage

The fiercer flames of his maternal fire.

## ANTISTROPHE.

Accomplish'd thus, he wing'd his way,  
And zealous roved from pole to pole,  
The rolls of right eternal to display,  
And warm with patriot thoughts the as-  
piring soul.

On desert isles 'twas he that raised  
Those spires that gild the Adriatic wave,  
Where tyranny beheld amazed  
Fair freedom's temple, where he mark'd  
her grave.

He steel'd the blunt Batavian's arms  
To burst the Iberians double chain ;  
And cities rear'd, and planted farms,  
Won from the skirts of Neptune's wide  
domain.

He with the generous rustics sate,  
On Uri's rocks in close divan ;  
And wing'd that arrow sure as fate,  
Which ascertain'd the sacred rights of  
man.

## STROPHE.

Arabia's scorching sands he cross'd,  
Where blasted nature pants supine,  
Conductor of her tribes adust,  
To freedom's adamant shrine ;  
And many a Tartar horde forlorn, aghast !  
He snatch'd from under fell oppression's  
wing,

And taught amidst the dreary waste  
The all-cheering hymns of liberty to sing.  
He virtue finds, like precious ore,  
Diffused through every baser mould ;  
Even now he stands on Calvi's rocky  
shore,

And turns the dross of Corsica to gold :  
He, guardian genius, taught my youth  
Pomp's tinsel livery to despise :  
My lips by him chastised to truth,  
Ne'er paid that homage which my heart  
denies.

## ANTISTROPHE.

Those sculptur'd halls my feet shall never  
tread,

Where varnish'd vice and vanity com-  
bined,

To dazzle and seduce, their banners  
spread, [mind ;

And forge vile shackles for the free-born  
While insolence his wrinkled front up-  
rears,

And all the flowers of spurious fancy  
blow ;

And tittle his ill-woven chaplet wears,  
Full often wreathed around the mis-  
creant's brow :

Where e'er-dimpling falsehood, pert and  
vain,

Presents her cup of stale profession's  
froth ;

And pale disease, with all his bloated  
train,

Torments the sons of gluttony and sloth.

## STROPHE.

In fortune's car behold that minion ride,  
With either India's glittering spoils op-  
prest ;

So moves the sumpter-mule, in harness'd  
pride,

That bears the treasure which he cannot  
taste.

For him let venal bards disgrace the bay,  
And hireling minstrels wake the tinkling  
string ;  
Her sensual snares let faithless pleasure  
lay ;  
And jingling bells fantastic folly ring ;  
Disquiet, doubt, and dread shall inter-  
vene ;  
And nature, still to all her feelings just,  
in vengeance hang a damp on every  
scene,  
Shook from the baleful pinions of disgust.

## ANTISTROPHE.

Nature I'll court in her sequester'd  
haunts,  
By mountain, meadow, streamlet, grove,  
or cell,  
Where the poised lark his evening ditty  
chaunts,  
And health, and peace, and contempla-  
tion dwell.  
There study shall with solitude recline ;  
And friendship pledge me to his fellow-  
swains ;  
And toil and temperance sedately twine  
The slender cord that fluttering life  
sustains :  
And fearless poverty shall guard the door ;  
And taste unspoil'd the frugal table  
spread ;  
And industry supply the humble store ;  
And sleep unbribed his dews refreshing  
shed ;  
White-mantled innocence, ethereal sprite,  
Shall chase far-off the goblins of the  
night ;  
And Independence o'er the day preside,  
Propitious power ! my patron and my  
pride.

## ODE TO LEVEN WATER.

ON Leven's banks, while free to rove,  
And tune the rural pipe to love,  
I envied not the happiest swain  
That ever trod the Arcadian plain.  
Pure stream, in whose transparent wave  
My youthful limbs I wont to lave ;  
No torrents stain thy limpid source,  
No rocks impede thy dimpling course,  
That sweetly warbles o'er its bed,  
With white round polish'd pebbles spread ;

While, lightly poised, the scaly brood  
In myriads cleave thy crystal flood ;  
The springing trout in speckled pride,  
The salmon, monarch of the tide ;  
The ruthless pike, intent on war,  
The silver eel, and mottled par.  
Devolving from thy parent lake,  
A charming maze thy waters make,  
By bowers of birch and groves of pine,  
And hedges flower'd with eglantine.  
Still on thy banks so gaily green,  
May numerous herds and flocks be seen :  
And lasses chanting o'er the pail,  
And shepherds piping in the dale ;  
And ancient faith that knows no guile,  
And industry embrown'd with toil ;  
And hearts resolved and hands prepared  
The blessings they enjoy to guard !

[SIR WILLIAM JONES. 1746—1794.]

## TO A NEW-BORN INFANT.

*Persian.*

THERE, on the nurse's lap, a new-born  
child,  
We saw thee weep while all around thee  
smiled ;  
So live, that sinking in thy last long sleep,  
Thou still may'st smile while all around  
thee weep.

[JOHN LANGHORNE. 1735—1779.]

## ELEGY.

OH ! yet, ye dear, deluding visions stay !  
Fond hopes, of innocence and fancy  
born !  
For you I'll cast these waking thoughts  
away,  
For one wild dream of life's romantic  
morn.

Ah ! no : the sunshine o'er each object  
spread  
By flattering hope, the flowers that blew  
so fair ;  
Like the gay gardens of Armida fled,  
And vanish'd from the powerful rod of  
care.

So the poor pilgrim, who, in rapturous  
thought,  
Plans his dear journey to Loretto's  
shrine,  
Seems on his way by guardian seraphs  
brought,  
Sees aiding angels favour his design.

Ambrosial blossoms, such of old as blew  
By those fresh founts on Eden's happy  
plain,  
And Sharon's roses all his passage strew:  
So fancy dreams; but fancy's dreams  
are vain.

Wasted and weary on the mountain's side,  
His way unknown, the hapless pilgrim  
lies,  
Or takes some ruthless robber for his  
guide,  
And prone beneath his cruel sabre dies.

Life's morning-landscape gilt with orient  
light,  
Where hope, and joy, and fancy hold  
their reign;  
The grove's green wave, the blue stream  
sparkling bright,  
The blithe hours dancing round Hyper-  
ion's wain.

In radiant colours youth's free hand pour-  
trays,  
Then holds the flattering tablet to his  
eye;  
Nor thinks how soon the vernal grove  
decays,  
Nor sees the dark cloud gathering o'er  
the sky.

Hence fancy conquer'd by the dart of pain,  
And wandering far from her Platonic  
shade,  
Mourns o'er the ruins of her transient  
reign,  
Nor unrepining sees her visions fade.

Their parent banish'd, hence her children  
fly,  
[train;  
Their fairy race that fill'd her festive  
Joy rears his wreath, and hope inverts her  
eye,  
And folly wonders that her dream was  
vain.

[CHATTERTON. 1752—1770.]

## ON RESIGNATION

O GOD, whose thunder shakes the sky,  
Whose eye this atom globe surveys,  
To thee, my only rock, I fly,  
Thy mercy in thy justice praise.

The mystic mazes of thy will,  
The shadows of celestial light,  
Are past the powers of human skill;  
But what the Eternal acts is right.

O teach me in the trying hour,  
When anguish swells the dewy tear,  
To still my sorrows, own thy power,  
Thy goodness love, thy justice fear.

If in this bosom aught but thee,  
Encroaching sought a boundless sway,  
Omniscience could the danger see,  
And mercy look the cause away.

Then, why, my soul, dost thou complain  
Why drooping seek the dark recess?  
Shake off the melancholy chain,  
For God created all to bless.

But, ah! my breast is human still;  
The rising sigh, the falling tear,  
My languid vitals' feeble rill,  
The sickness of my soul declare.

But yet, with fortitude resign'd,  
I'll thank the infliction of the blow,  
Forbid the sigh, compose my mind  
Nor let the gush of misery flow.

The gloomy mantle of the night,  
Which on my sinking spirit steals,  
Will vanish at the morning light,  
Which God, my East, my Sun, reveals.

[ANONYMOUS. 1750.]

THE LAMENT OF THE BORDER  
WIDOW.

My love he built me a bonnie bower,  
And clad it all with lily flower;  
A braver bower you ne'er did see,  
Than my true love he built for me.

There came a man, by middle day,  
He spied his sport and went his way,  
And brought the king that very night  
Who broke my bower and slew my knight.

He slew my knight to me so dear;  
He slew my knight and poin'd his gear;  
My servants all for life did flee,  
And left me in extremity.

I sew'd his sheet, making my moan;  
I watch'd his corpse, myself alone;  
I watch'd his body, night and day;  
No living creature came that way.

I took his body on my back,  
And whiles I gaed and whiles I sat;  
I digg'd a grave and laid him in,  
And happ'd him with the sod so green.

But think na ye my heart was sair  
When I laid the mould on his yellow hair;  
Think nae ye my heart was wae,  
When I turn'd about, away to gae!

No living man I'll love again,  
Since that my lovely knight is slain;  
With one lock of his yellow hair,  
I'll bind my heart for evermair.

[DAVID MALLET. 1703?—1765.]

#### WILLIAM AND MARGARET.

'T WAS at the silent, solemn hour,  
When night and morning meet;  
In glided Margaret's grimly ghost,  
And stood at William's feet.

Her face was like an April morn,  
Clad in a wintry cloud;  
And clay-cold was her lily hand,  
That held her sable shroud.

So shall the fairest face appear,  
When youth and years are flown:  
Such is the robe that kings must wear,  
When death has reft their crown.

Her bloom was like the springing flower,  
That sips the silver dew;

The rose was budded in her cheek,  
Just opening to the view.

But love had, like the canker-worm,  
Consumed her early prime;  
The rose grew pale, and left her cheek—  
She died before her time.

"Awake," she cried, "thy true love calls,  
Come from her midnight grave;  
Now let thy pity hear the maid,  
Thy love refused to save.

"This is the dark and dreary hour,  
When injured ghosts complain;  
When yawning graves give up their dead,  
To haunt the faithless swain.

"Bethink thee, William, of thy fault,  
Thy pledge and broken oath!  
And give me back my maiden vow,  
And give me back my troth.

"Why did you promise love to me,  
And not that promise keep?  
Why did you swear my eyes were bright,  
Yet leave those eyes to weep?

"How could you say my face was fair,  
And yet that face forsake?  
How could you win my virgin heart,  
Yet leave that heart to break?

"Why did you say my lip was sweet,  
And made the scarlet pale?  
And why did I, young witless maid!  
Believe the flatt'ring tale?

"That face, alas! no more is fair,  
Those lips no longer red;  
Dark are my eyes, now closed in death,  
And every charm is fled.

"The hungry worm my sister is;  
This winding-sheet I wear:  
And cold and weary lasts our night,  
Till that last morn appear.

"But hark! the cock has warn'd me  
hence;  
A long and last adieu!  
Come see, false man, how low she lies,  
Who died for love of you,



The lark sung loud; the morning smiled  
 With beams of rosy red;  
 Pale William quaked in every limb,  
 And raving left his bed.

He hied him to the fatal place,  
 Where Margaret's body lay; [turf,  
 And stretch'd him on the green grass  
 That wrapt her breathless clay.

And thrice he called on Margaret's name,  
 And thrice he wept full sore;  
 Then laid his cheek to her cold grave,  
 And word spake never more.

~~~~~  
 EDWIN AND EMMA.

FAR in the windings of a vale,
 Fast by a shelt'ring wood,
 The safe retreat of health and peace,
 A humble cottage stood.

There beauteous Emma flourish'd fair
 Beneath her mother's eye,
 Whose only wish on earth was now
 To see her blest, and die.

The softest blush that nature spreads
 Gave colour to her cheek;
 Such orient colour smiles through Heav'n
 When May's sweet mornings break.

Nor let the pride of great ones scorn
 The charmers of the plains;
 That sun which bids their diamond blaze
 To deck our lily deigns.

Long had she fired each youth with love,
 Each maiden with despair,
 And though by all a wonder own'd,
 Yet knew not she was fair;

Till Edwin came, the pride of swains,
 A soul that knew no art;
 And from whose eyes serenely mild,
 Shone forth the feeling heart.

A mutual flame was quickly caught,
 Was quickly too reveal'd;
 For neither bosom lodged a wish,
 Which virtue keeps conceal'd.

What happy hours of heart-felt bliss,
 Did love on both bestow!
 But bliss too mighty long to last,
 Where fortune proves a foe.

His sister, who, like envy form'd,
 Like her in mischief joy'd,
 To work them harm with wicked skill
 Each darker art employ'd.

The father, too, a sordid man,
 Who love nor pity knew,
 Was all unfeeling as the rock
 From whence his riches grew.

Long had he seen their mutual flame,
 And seen it long unmoved;
 Then with a father's frown at last
 He sternly disapproved.

In Edwin's gentle heart a war
 Of diff'ring passions strove;
 His heart, which durst not disobey,
 Yet could not cease to love.

Denied her sight, he oft behind
 The spreading hawthorn crept,
 To snatch a glance, to mark the spot
 Where Emma walk'd and wept.

Oft, too, in Stanemore's wintry waste,
 Beneath the moonlight shade,
 In sighs to pour his soften'd soul,
 The midnight mourner stray'd.

His cheeks, where love with beauty
 glow'd,
 A deadly pale o'ercast;
 So fades the fresh rose in its prime,
 Before the northern blast.

The parents now, with late remorse,
 Hung o'er his dying bed,
 And wearied Heav'n with fruitless pray'rs,
 And fruitless sorrows shed.

"'T is past," he cried, "but if your souls
 Sweet mercy yet can move,
 Let these dim eyes once more behold
 What they must ever love."

She came; his cold hand softly touch'd,
 And bathed with many a tear:

Fast falling o'er the primrose pale,
So morning dews appear.

But oh, his sister's jealous care
(A cruel sister she !)
Forbade what Emma came to say,
"My Edwin, live for me."

Now homeward as she hopeless went,
The churchyard path along,
The blast blew cold, the dark owl
scream'd
Her lover's fun'ral song.

Amid the falling gloom of night,
Her startling fancy found
In ev'ry bush his hov'ring shade,
His groan in every sound.

Alone, appall'd, thus had she pass'd
The visionary vale,
When lo ! the deathbell smote her ear,
Sad sounding in the gale.
[steps
Just then she reach'd with trembling
Her aged mother's door :
"He's gone," she cried; "and I shall see
That angel face no more !

"I feel, I feel this breaking heart
Beat high against my side !"
From her white arm down sunk her head,
She shiver'd, sigh'd, and died.

[JAMES SOMERVILLE. 1692—1742.]

THE RED AND WHITE ROSE.

If this pale rose offend your sight,
It in your bosom wear ;
'Twill blush to find itself less white,
And turn Lancastrian there.

But, Celia, should the red be chose,
With gay vermilion bright,
'Twould sicken at each blush that glows,
And in despair turn white.

Let politicians idly prate,
Their Babels build in vain ;
As uncontrollable as fate,
Imperial Love shall reign.

Each haughty faction shall obey,
And whigs and tories join ;
Submit to your despotic sway,
Confess your right divine.

Yet this, my gracious monarch, own,
They're tyrants that oppress ;
'Tis mercy must support your throne,
And 'tis like heaven to bless.

[ROBERT BLAIR. 1699—1746.]

OFT IN THE LONE CHURCH-YARD.

OFT, in the lone church-yard at night I've
seen,
By glimpse of moon-shine chequering
through the trees,
The school-boy with his satchel in his
hand,
Whistling aloud to bear his courage up,
And lightly tripping o'er the long flat
stones,
(With nettles skirted, and with moss o'er-
grown,) That tell in homely phrase who lie below.
Sudden he starts, and hears, or thinks he
hears,
The sound of something purring at his
heels ;
Full fast he flies, and dares not look
behind him,
Till out of breath he overtakes his fel-
lows ;
Who gather round, and wonder at the
tale
Of horrid apparition, tall and ghastly,
That walks at dead of night, or takes his
stand
O'er some new-open'd grave ; and (strange
to tell !)
Evanishes at crowing of the cock.

THE GRAVE.

DULL grave ! thou spoil'st the dance of
youthful blood,
Strik'st out the dimple from the cheek of
mirth,
And ev'ry smirking feature from the
face ;

Branding our laughter with the name of
madness.

Where are the jesters now? the men of
health

Complexionally pleasant? Where the
droll,

Whose ev'ry look and gesture was a
joke

To chapping theatres and shouting
crowds,

And made ev'n thick-lipp'd musing
melancholy

To gather up her face into a smile

Before she was aware? Ah! sullen
now,

And dumb as the green turf that covers
them.

BEAUTY IN THE GRAVE.

BEAUTY—thou pretty plaything, dear
deceit,

That steals so softly o'er the stripling's
heart,

And gives it a new pulse, unknown be-
fore,

The grave discredits thee: thy charms
expung'd,

Thy roses faded, and thy lilies soil'd,

What hast thou more to boast of? Will
thy lovers

Flock round thee now, to gaze and do
thee homage?

Methinks I see thee with thy head low
laid,

Whilst surfeited upon thy damask cheek

The high-fed worm, in lazy volumes
roll'd,

Riots unscared.—For this, was all thy
caution?

For this, thy painful labours at thy glass?

T' improve those charms, and keep them
in repair,

For which the spoiler thanks thee **not**.
Foul feeder,

Coarse fare and carrion please thee full
as well,

And leave as keen a relish on the sense.

Look how the fair one weeps!—the con-
scious tears

Stand thick as dew-drops on the bells of
flowers:

Honest effusion! the swoll'n heart is
vain

Works hard to put a gloss on its distress.

STRENGTH IN THE GRAVE.

STRENGTH too—thou surly, and less
gentle boast

Of those that loud laugh at the village
ring;

A fit of common sickness pulls thee
down

With greater ease, than e'er thou didst
the stripling

That rashly dared thee to th' unequal
fight.

What groan was that I heard?—deep
groan indeed!

With anguish heavy laden; let me trace
it:

From yonder bed it comes, where the
strong man,

By stronger arm belabour'd, gasps for
breath

Like a hard-hunted beast. How his great
heart

Beats thick! his roomy chest by far too
scant

To give the lungs full play.—What now
avail

The strong-built sinewy limbs, and well-
spread shoulders;

See how he tugs for life, and lays about
him,

Mad with his pain! Eager he catches
hold

Of what comes next to hand, and grasps
it hard, [sight!

Just like a creature drowning; hideous
Oh! how his eyes stand out, and stare

full ghastly!

While the distemper's rank and deadly
venom

Shoots like a burning arrow cross his
bowels,

And drinks his marrow up.—Heard you
that groan?

It was his last.—See how the great
Goliath,

Just like a child that brawl'd itself to
rest,
Lies still.

[THOMAS GRAY. 1716—1771.]

THE PROGRESS OF POESY.

A PINDARIC ODE.

I.

AWAKE, Æolian lyre, awake,
 And give to rapture all thy trembling
 strings.
 From Helicon's harmonious springs
 A thousand rills their mazy progress
 take ;
 The laughing flowers that round them
 blow,
 Drink life and fragrance as they flow.
 Now the rich stream of music winds
 along,
 Deep, majestic, smooth, and strong,
 Through verdant vales, and Ceres'
 golden reign :
 Now rolling down the steep amain,
 Headlong, impetuous, see it pour :
 The rocks, and nodding groves, rebellow
 to the roar.

Oh ! sovereign of the willing soul,
 Parent of sweet and solemn-breathing
 airs,
 Enchanting shell ! the sullen cares,
 And frantic passions, hear thy soft
 control :
 On Thracia's hills the lord of war
 Has curb'd the fury of his car,
 And dropp'd his thirsty lance at thy
 command :
 Perching on the scepter'd hand
 Of Jove, thy magic lulls the feather'd
 king
 With ruffled plumes, and flagging wing :
 Quench'd in dark clouds of slumber lie
 The terror of his beak, and lightning of
 his eye.

Thee the voice, the dance, obey,
 Temper'd to thy warbled lay,
 O'er Idalia's velvet-green
 The rosy-crown'd Loves are seen,
 On Cytherea's day,
 With antic Sports and blue-eyed Plea-
 sures,
 Frisking light in frolic measures ;
 Now pursuing, now retreating,
 Now in circling troops they meet :

To brisk notes in cadence beating,
 Glance their many-twinkling feet.
 Slow-melting strains their queen's ap-
 proach declare.

Where'er she turns the Graces homage
 pay,
 With arms sublime that float upon the
 air ;
 In gliding state she wins her easy way :
 O'er her warm cheek and rising bosom
 move
 The bloom of young Desire, and purple
 light of Love.

II.

Man's feeble race what ills await,
 Labour and Penury, the racks of Pain,
 Disease, and Sorrow's weeping train,
 And Death, sad refuge from the
 storms of Fate !
 The fond complaint, my song, disprove,
 And justify the laws of Jove.
 Say, has he given in vain the heavenly
 Muse ?
 Night and all her sickly dews,
 Her spectres wan, and birds of boding
 cry,
 He gives to range the dreary sky :
 Till down the eastern cliffs afar
 Hyperion's march they spy, the glittering
 shafts of war.

In climes beyond the solar road,
 Where shaggy forms o'er ice-built
 mountains roam,
 The Muse has broke the twilight gloom
 To cheer the shivering native's dull
 abode.
 And oft, beneath the odorous shade
 Of Chili's boundless forests laid,
 She deigns to hear the savage youth
 repeat,
 In loose numbers wildly sweet,
 Their feather-cinctured chiefs, and
 dusky loves.
 Her track, where'er the goddess roves,
 Glory pursue, and generous Shame,
 Th' unconquerable mind, and Freedom's
 holy flame.

Woods, that wave o'er Delphi's steep,
 Isles, that crown'd th' Ægean deep,

Fields, that cool Ilissus laves,
 Or where Mæander's amber waves
 In lingering labyrinths creep,
 How do your tuneful Echoes languish
 Mute, but to the voice of anguish?
 Where each old poetic mountain
 Inspiration breathed around :
 Every shade and hallow'd fountain
 Murmur'd deep a solemn sound :
 Till the sad Nine, in Greece's evil hour,
 Left their Parnassus, for the Latian
 plains.
 Alike they scorn the pomp of tyrant-
 power,
 And coward Vice, that revels in her
 chains.
 When Latium had her lofty spirit lost,
 They sought, oh Albion! next thy sea-
 encircled coast.

III.

Far from the Sun and summer-gale,
 In thy green lap was Nature's darling
 laid,
 What time, where lucid Avon stray'd,
 To him the mighty mother did unveil
 Her awful face : the dauntless child
 Stretch'd forth his little arms, and
 smiled.
 "This pencil take," she said, "whose
 colours clear
 Richly paint the vernal year :
 Thine too these golden keys, immortal
 boy!
 This can unlock the gates of Joy ;
 Of Horror that, and thrilling fears,
 Or ope the sacred source of sympathetic
 tears."
 Nor second he, that rode sublime
 Upon the seraph-wings of Ecstasy,
 The secrets of th' abyss to spy.
 He pass'd the flaming bounds of place
 and time :
 The living throne, the sapphire-blaze,
 Where angels tremble, while they gaze,
 He saw ; but, blasted with excess of
 light,
 Closed his eyes 'n endless night.
 Behold, where Dryden's less presump-
 tuous car,
 Wide o'er the field of Glory bear

Two coursers of ethereal race,
 With necks in thunder clothed, and long-
 resounding pace.

Hark, his hands the lyre explore !
 Bright-eyed Fancy, hovering o'er,
 Scatters from her pictured urn
 Thoughts that breathe, and words that
 burn.

But ah ! 'tis heard no more—
 Oh ! lyre divine, what daring spirit
 Wakes thee now ? Though he inherit
 Nor the pride, nor ample pinion,
 That the Theban eagle bear,
 Sailing with supreme dominion
 Through the azure deep of air :
 Yet oft before his infant eyes would
 run

Such forms as glitter in the Muse's
 ray

With orient hues, unborrow'd of the
 Sun :

Yet shall he mount, and keep his dis-
 tant way

Beyond the limits of a vulgar fate,
 Beneath the good how far !—but far above
 the great.

HYMN TO ADVERSITY.

DAUGHTER of Jove, relentless pow'r,
 Thou tamer of the human breast,
 Whose iron scourge and tort'ring hour
 The bad affright, afflict the best !
 Bound in thy adamantine chain,
 The proud are taught to taste of pain,
 And purple tyrants vainly groan
 With pangs unfelt before, unpitied and
 alone.

When first thy sire to send on earth
 Virtue, his darling child, design'd,
 To thee he gave the heav'nly birth,
 And bade thee form her infant mind.
 Stern rugged nurse ! thy rigid lore
 With patience many a year she bore :
 What sorrow was, thou bad'st her know !
 And from her own she learn'd to melt at
 others' woe.

Scared at thy frown terrific, fly
 Self-pleasing Folly's idle brood,
 Wild Laughter, Noise, and thoughtless
 Joy,
 And leave us leisure so be good.
 Light they disperse, and with them go
 The summer Friend, the flatt'ring Foe;
 By vain Prosperity received,
 To her they vow their truth, and are
 again believed.

Wisdom in sable garb array'd,
 Immersed in rapt'rous thought profound,
 And Melancholy, silent maid,
 With leaden eye, that loves the ground,
 Still on thy solemn steps attend :
 Warm Charity, the gen'ral friend,
 With Justice, to herself severe,
 And Pity, dropping soft the sadly pleasing
 tear.

O, gently on thy suppliant's head,
 Dread Goddess lay thy chast'ning hand !
 Not in thy Gorgon terrors clad,
 Nor circled with the vengeful band
 (As by the impious thou art seen)
 With thund'ring voice, and threat'ning
 mien,
 With screaming Horrour's funeral cry,
 Despair, and fell Disease, and ghastly
 Poverty.

Thy form benign, O Goddess ! wear,
 Thy milder influence impart,
 Thy philosophic train be there,
 To soften, not to wound my heart.
 The gen'rous spark extinct revive,
 Teach me to love and to forgive,
 Exact my own defects to scan,
 What others are, to feel, and know my-
 self a man.

ODE ON A DISTANT PROSPECT OF ETON COLLEGE.

YE distant spires, ye antique tow'rs,
 That crown the wat'ry glade,
 Where grateful Science still adores
 Her Henry's holy shade ;
 And ye, that from the stately brow
 Of Windsor's heights th' expanse below
 Of grove, of lawn, of mead survey,

Whose turf, whose shade, whose flow'
 among
 Wanders the hoary Thames along
 His silver winding way.

Ah, happy hills ! ah, pleasing shade !
 Ah, fields beloved in vain !
 Where once my careless childhood stray'd,
 A stranger yet to pain !
 I feel the gales, that from ye blow,
 A momentary bliss bestow,
 As waving fresh their gladsome wing,
 My weary soul they seem to sooth,
 And, redolent of joy and youth,
 To breathe a second spring.

Say, Father Thames (for thou hast
 seen
 Full many a sprightly race,
 Disporting on thy margent green,
 The paths of pleasure trace),
 Who foremost now delight to cleave
 With pliant arm thy glassy wave ?
 The captive linnet which enthrall ?
 What idle progeny succeed
 To chase the rolling circle's speed,
 Or urge the flying ball ?

While some, on earnest business bent,
 Their murm'ring labours ply
 'Gainst graver hours, that bring con-
 straint
 To sweeten liberty :
 Some bold adventurers disdain
 The limits of their little reign,
 And unknown regions dare descry,
 Still as they run they look behind,
 They hear a voice in every wind,
 And snatch a fearful joy.

Gay hope is theirs by Fancy fed,
 Less pleasing when possess'd ;
 The tear forgot as soon as shed,
 The sunshine of the breast ;
 Theirs buxom Health of rosy hue,
 Wild Wit, Invention ever new,
 And lively Cheer, of Vigour born ;
 The thoughtless day, the easy night,
 The spirits pure, the slumbers light,
 That fly th' approach of morn.

Alas ! regardless of their doom,
 The little victims play !

No sense have they of ills to come,
 No care beyond to-day :
 Yet see how all around them wait
 The ministers of human fate,
 And black Misfortune's baleful train !
 Ah, show them where in ambush stand,
 To seize their prey, the murd'rous band,
 Ah, tell them they are men !

These shall the fury passions tear,
 The vultures of the mind,
 Disdainful Anger, pallid Fear,
 And Shame that skulks behind :
 Or pining Love shall waste their youth,
 Or Jealousy with rankling tooth,
 That inly gnaws the secret heart,
 And Envy wan, and faded Care,
 Grim visaged comfortless Despair,
 And Sorrow's piercing dart.

Ambition this shall tempt to rise,
 Then whirl the wretch from high,
 To bitter Scorn a sacrifice,
 And grinning Infamy.
 The stings of Falsehood those shall try,
 And hard Unkindness' alter'd eye,
 That mocks the tear it forced to flow ;
 And keen Remorse with blood defiled,
 And moody Madness laughing wild
 Amid severest woe.

Lo, in the vale of years beneath
 A grisly troop are seen,
 The painful family of Death,
 More hideous than their queen ;
 This racks the joints, this fires the veins,
 That every lab'ring sinew strains,
 Those in the deeper vitals rage :
 Lo, Poverty, to fill the band,
 That numbs the soul with icy hand,
 And slow consuming Age.

To each his suff'rings : all are men,
 Condemn'd alike to groan ;
 The tender for another's pain,
 Th'unfeeling for his own.
 Yet ah ! why should they know their
 fate
 Since Sorrow never comes too late,
 And Happiness too swiftly flies ;
 Thought would destroy their Paradise.
 No more ; where ignorance is bliss,
 'Tis folly to be wise.

ELEGY, WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD.

THE curfew tolls the knell of parting
 day,
 The lowing herds wind slowly o'er the
 lea,
 The ploughman homeward plods his
 weary way,
 And leaves the world to darkness and to
 me.

Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on
 the sight,
 And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
 Save where the beetle wheels his droning
 flight,
 And drowsy tinklings lull the distant
 folds ;

Save that from yonder ivy-mantled
 tower,
 The moping owl does to the moon com-
 plain
 Of such, as wand'ring near her secret
 bow'r.
 Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Beneath those rugged elms, that yew
 tree's shade,
 Where heaves the turf in many a moul-
 d'ring heap,
 Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
 The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

The breezy call of incense-breathing
 Morn,
 The swallow twitt'ring from the straw-
 built shed,
 The cock's shrill clarion, or the echoing
 horn,
 No more shall rouse them from their
 lowly bed.

For them no more the blazing hearth
 shall burn,
 Or busy housewife ply her ev'ning care :
 No children run to lisp their sire's return,
 Or climb his knees the envied kiss to
 share.



ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD (GRAY).

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herds wind slowly o'er the lea.—P. 192.

Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
Their furrow oft the stubborn glebe has
broke :

How jocund did they drive their team
afield !

How bow'd the woods beneath their
sturdy stroke !

Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys, and destiny obscure ;
Nor Grandeur hear with a disdainful
smile

The short and simple annals of the poor.

The boast of Heraldry, the pomp of Pow'r,
And all that Beauty, all that Wealth e'er
gave,
Await alike th' inevitable hour,
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the
fault,

If Mem'ry o'er their tombs no trophies
raise,

Where through the long drawn aisle, and
fretted vault,

The pealing anthem swells the note of
praise.

Can storied urn, or animated bust,
Back to its mansion call the fleeting
breath ?

Can Honour's voice provoke the silent
dust,

Or Flatt'ry sooth the dull cold ear of
Death ?

Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid
Some heart once pregnant with celestial
fire ;

Hands, that the rod of empire might have
sway'd,

Or wak'd to ecstasy the living lyre.

But Knowledge to their eyes her ample
page,

Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er
unroll ;

Chill Penury repress'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear ;
Full many a flow'r is born to blush un-
seen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Some village Hampden, that with daunt-
less breast

The little tyrant of his fields withstood ;
Some mute inglorious Milton here may
rest,

Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's
blood.

Th' applause of list'ning senates to com-
mand,

The threats of pain and ruin to despise,
To scatter plenty o'er a smiling land,
And read their hist'ry in a nation's eyes,

Their lot forbade : nor circumscrib'd alone
Their growing virtues, but their crimes
confin'd ;

Forbade to wade through slaughter to a
throne,
And shut the gates of mercy on mankind ;

The struggling pangs of conscious truth
to hide,

To quench the blushes of ingenuous
shame,

Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride
With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble
strife

Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray,
Along the cool sequester'd vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenour of their
way.

Yet ev'n these bones from insult to
protect,

Some frail memorial still erected nigh,
With uncouth rhymes and shapeless sculp-
ture deck'd,

Implores the passing tribute of a sigh.

Their names, their years, spelt by th' un-
letter'd Muse,

The place of fame and elegy supply ;
And many a holy text around she strews
That teach the rustic moralist to die.

For who, to dumb forgetfulness a prey,
This pleasing anxious being e'er resign'd,
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful
day,
Nor cast one longing, ling'ring look be-
hind?

On some fond breast the parting soul
relies,
Some pious drops the closing eye re-
quires;
Ev'n from the tomb the voice of Nature
cries,
Ev'n in our ashes live their wonted fires.

For thee, who, mindful of th' unhonour'd
dead,
Dost in these lines their artless tale
relate;
If chance, by lonely Contemplation led,
Some kindred spirit shall inquire thy
fate,

Haply some hoary-headed swain may say,
"Oft have we seen him at the peep of
dawn,
Brushing with hasty steps the dew away,
To meet the sun upon the upland lawn.

"There at the foot of yonder nodding
beech,
That wreathes its old fantastic roots so
high,
His listless length at noontide would he
stretch,
And pore upon the brook that babbles
by.

"Hard by yon wood, now smiling as in
scorn,
Mutt'ring his wayward fancies he would
rove;
Now drooping, woful, wan, like one for-
lorn,
Or craz'd with care, or cross'd in hopeless
love.

"One morn, I miss'd him on th' accus-
tom'd hill,
Along the heath, and near his fav'rite
tree;
Another came, nor yet beside the rill,
Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he;

"The next, with dirges due, in sad
array,
Slow through the churchway path we
saw him borne.
Approach and read (for thou canst read)
the lay,
Grav'd on the stone beneath yon aged
thorn."

THE EPITAPH.

HERE rests his head upon the lap of
Earth
A youth to Fortune and to Fame un-
known:
Fair Science frown'd not on his humble
birth,
And Melancholy mark'd him for her
own.

Large was his bounty, and his soul
sincere,
Heav'n did a recompense as largely send:
He gave to Mis'ry all he had, a tear;
He gain'd from Heav'n, 'twas all he
wish'd, a friend.

No further seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread
abode:
(There they alike in trembling hope
repose)
The bosom of his Father and his God.

THE BARD.

I. I.

"RUIN seize thee, ruthless King!
Confusion on thy banners wait;
Tho' fann'd by Conquest's crimson wing,
They mock the air with idle state.
Helm, nor hauberk's twisted mail,
Nor e'en thy virtues, Tyrant, shall avail
To save thy secret soul from nightly
fears, [tears!]
From Cambria's curse, from Cambria's
Such were the sounds that o'er the crested
pride
Of the first Edward scatter'd wild dis-
may, [side
As down the steep of Snowdon's shaggy
He wound with toilsome march his
long array.

Stout Glo'ster stood aghast in speechless
trance :
"To arms !" cried Mortimer, and couch'd
his quiv'ring lance.

I. 2.

On a rock, whose haughty brow
Frowns o'er cold Conway's foaming flood,
Robed in the sable garb of woe,
With haggard eyes the poet stood ;
(Loose his beard, and hoary hair
Stream'd, like a meteor, to the troubled
air)
And with a master's hand, and prophet's
fire,
Struck the deep sorrows of his lyre.
"Hark, how each giant oak, and desert
cave,
Sighs to the torrent's awful voice
beneath !
O'er thee, O King ! their hundred arms
they wave,
Revenge on thee in hoarser murmurs
breathe ;
Vocal no more, since Cambria's fatal
day,
To high-born Hoel's harp, or soft Llew-
ellyn's lay.

I. 3.

"Cold is Cadwallo's tongue,
That hush'd the stormy main :
Brave Urien sleeps upon his craggy bed :
Mountains, ye mourn in vain
Modred, whose magic song
Made huge Plinlimmon bow his cloud-
topt head.
On dreary Arvon's shore they lie,
Smear'd with gore, and ghastly pale :
Far, far aloof th' affrighted ravens sail ;
The famish'd eagle screams, and passes
by.
Dear lost companions of my tuneful art,
Dear as the light that visits these sad
eyes,
Dear as the ruddy drops that warm my
heart,
Ye died amidst your dying country's
cries—
No more I weep. They do not sleep.
On yonder cliffs, a grisly band,
I see them sit, they linger yet,
Avengers of their native land :

With me in dreadful harmony they
join,
And weave with bloody hands the tissue
of thy line.

II. I.

"Weave the warp, and weave the
woof,
The winding-sheet of Edward's race.
Give ample room, and verge enough
The characters of hell to trace.
Mark the year, and mark the night,
When Severn shall re-echo with affright
The shrieks of death, thro' Berkely's roof
that ring,
Shrieks of an agonizing king !
She-wolf of France, with unrelenting
fangs,
That tear'st the bowels of thy mangled
mate,
From thee be born, who o'er thy
country hangs
The scourge of Heav'n. What Terrors
round him wait !
Amazement in his van, with Flight com-
bin'd,
And Sorrow's faded form, and Solitude
behind.

II. 2.

"Mighty victor, mighty lord !
Low on his funeral couch he lies !
No pitying heart, no eye, afford
A tear to grace his obsequies.
Is the sable warrior fled ?
Thy son is gone. He rests among the
dead.
The swarm, that in thy noon-tide beam
were born.
Gone to salute the rising morn.
Fair laughs the morn, and soft the zephyr
blows,
While proudly riding o'er the azure
realm
In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes ;
Youth on the prow, and Pleasure at
the helm :
Regardless of the sweeping whirlwind's
sway,
That, hush'd in grim repose, expects his
ev'ning prey.

II. 3.

"Fill high the sparkling bowl,
The rich repast prepare,
Reft of a crown, he yet may share the
feast :
Close by the regal chair
Fell Thirst and Famine scowl
A baleful smile upon their baffled guest.
Heard ye the din of battle bray,
Lance to lance, and horse to horse ?
Long years of havoc urge their destined
course,
And thro' the kindred squadrons mow
their way.
Ye towers of Julius, London's lasting
shame,
With many a foul and midnight murder
fed,
Revere his consort's faith, his father's
fame,
And spare the meek usurper's holy head.
Above, below, the rose of snow,
Twin'd with her blushing foe, we
spread :
The Thirsty Boar in infant-gore
Wallows beneath the thorny shade.
Now, brothers, bending o'er the accursed
loom,
Stamp we our vengeance deep, and ratify
his doom.

III. I.

"Edward, lo ! to sudden fate
(Weave we the woof. The thread is
spun.)
Half of thy heart we consecrate.
(The web is wove. The work is done.)
Stay, oh stay ! nor thus forlorn
Leave me unblest'd, unpitied, here to
mourn :
In yon bright track, that fires the western
skies,
They melt, they vanish from my eyes.
But oh ! what solemn scenes on Snow-
don's height
Descending slow their glittering skirts
unroll ?
Visions of glory, spare my aching sight !
Ye unborn ages, crowd not on my soul !
No more our long-lost Arthur we bewail.
All hail, ye genuine kings, Britannia's
issue, hail !

III. 2.

"Girt with many a baron bold
Sublime their starry fronts they rear ;
And gorgeous dames, and statesmen
old
In bearded majesty, appear.
In the midst a form divine !
Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-
line ;
Her lion-port, her awe-commanding
face,
Attemper'd sweet to virgin-grace.
What strings symphonious tremble in the
air,
What strains of vocal transport round
her play !
Hear from the grave, great Taliessin,
hear ;
They breathe a soul to animate thy
clay.
Bright Rapture calls, and soaring as she
sings,
Waves in the eye of heav'n her many-
colour'd wings.

III. 3.

"The verse adorn again
Fierce War, and faithful Love,
And Truth severe, by fairy fiction drest.
In buskin'd measures move
Pale Grief, and pleasing Pain,
With Horror, tyrant of the throbbing
breast.
A voice, as of the cherub-choir,
Gales from blooming Eden bear ;
And distant warblings lessen on my ear,
That lost in long futurity expire.
Fond impious man, think'st thou yon
sanguine cloud,
Rais'd by thy breath, has quench'd the
orb of day ?
To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
And warms the nations with redoubled
ray.
Enough for me ; with joy I see
The diff'rent doom our fates assign.
Be thine Despair, and sceptred Care,
To triumph, and to die, are mine."
He spoke, and headlong from the moun-
tain's height
Deep in the roaring tide he plunged to
endless night.

THE DESCENT OF ODIN.

UPROSE the King of men with speed,
And saddled straight his coal-black steed;
Down the yawning steep he rode,
That leads to Hela's drear abode.
Him the dog of darkness spied;
His shaggy throat he open'd wide,
While from his jaws, with carnage fill'd,
Foam and human gore distill'd:
Hoarse he bays with hideous din,
Eyes that glow, and fangs that grin;
And long pursues with fruitless yell,
The father of the powerful spell.
Onward still his way he takes,
(The groaning earth beneath him shakes,)
Till full before his fearless eyes
The portals nine of hell arise.

Right against the eastern gate,
By the moss-grown pile he sate;
Where long of yore to sleep was laid
The dust of the prophetic maid.
Facing to the northern clime,
Thrice he traced the Runic rhyme:
Thrice pronounced, in accents dread,
The thrilling verse that wakes the dead:
Till from out the hollow ground
Slowly breath'd a sullen sound.

PROPHETESS.

What call unknown, what charms presume
To break the quiet of the tomb?
Who thus afflicts my troubled sprite,
And drags me from the realms of night?
Long on these mould'ring bones have
beat
The winter's snow, the summer's heat,
The drenching dews, and driving rain!
Let me, let me sleep again.
Who is he, with voice unblest,
That calls me from the bed of rest?

ODIN.

A traveller, to thee unknown,
Is he that calls, a warrior's son.
Thou the deeds of light shalt know;
Tell me what is done below,
For whom yon glitt'ring board is spread,
Dress'd for whom yon golden bed?

PROPHETESS.

Mantling in the goblet see
The pure bev'rage of the bee:
O'er it hangs the shield of gold;
'Tis the drink of Balder bold:
Balder's head to death is giv'n.
Pain can reach the sons of heaven!
Unwilling I my lips uncloze:
Leave me, leave me to repose.

ODIN.

Once again my call obey,
Prophetess, arise, and say,
What dangers Odin's child await,
Who the author of his fate?

PROPHETESS.

In Hoder's hand the hero's doom;
His brother sends him to the tomb.
Now my weary lips I close:
Leave me, leave me to repose.

ODIN.

Prophetess, my spell obey,
Once again arise, and say,
Who th' avenger of his guilt,
By whom shall Hoder's blood be spilt

PROPHETESS.

In the caverns of the west,
By Odin's fierce embrace compest,
A wond'rous boy shall Rinda bear,
Who ne'er shall comb his raven hair,
Nor wash his visage in the stream,
Nor see the sun's departing beam,
Till he on Hoder's corse shall smile
Flaming on the funeral pile.
Now my weary lips I close:
Leave me, leave me to repose.

ODIN.

Yet awhile my call obey;
Prophetess, awake, and say,
What virgins these, in speechless woe,
That bend to earth their solemn brow
That their flaxen tresses tear,
And snowy veils that float in air?
Tell me whence their sorrows rose:
Then I leave thee to repose.

PROPHETESS.

Ha! no traveller art thou,
King of men, I know thee now;
Mightier* of a mighty line—

ODIN.

No boding maid of skill divine
Art thou, nor prophetess of good;
But mother of the giant brood!

PROPHETESS.

Hie thee hence, and boast at home,
That never shall enquirer come
To break my iron sleep again;
Till Loke has burst his tenfold chain;
Never, till substantial night
Has reassumed her ancient right;
Till wrapt in flames, in ruin hurl'd,
Sinks the fabric of the world.

~~~~~  
[THOMAS TICKELL. 1686—1740.]

THE DEAD IN WESTMINSTER  
ABBEY.

OFT let me range the gloomy aisles alone,  
Sad luxury, to vulgar minds unknown!  
Along the walls where speaking marbles  
show  
What worthies form the hallow'd mould  
below;  
Proud names, who once the reins of em-  
pire held;  
In arms who triumphed, or in arts ex-  
celled;  
Chiefs graced with scars and prodigal of  
blood;  
Stern patriots who for sacred freedom  
stood;  
Just men, by whom impartial laws were  
given;  
And saints, who taught and led the way  
to heaven.

~~~~~  
[JOHN GAY. 1688—1732.]

THE PERSIAN, THE SUN, AND
THE CLOUD.

Is there a bard whom genius fires,
Whose every thought the god inspires?

When Envy reads the nervous lines,
She frets, she rails, she raves, she pines;
Her hissing snakes with venom swell,
She calls her venal train from hell;
The servile fiends her nod obey,
And all Curll's authors are in pay.
Fame calls up Calumny and Spite;
Thus Shadow owes its birth to Light.

As prostrate to the god of day
With heart devout a Persian lay,
His invocation thus begun:
"Parent of light, all-seeing sun,
Prolific beam, whose rays dispense
The various gifts of Providence,
Accept our praise, our daily prayer,
Smile on our fields, and bless the year."

A Cloud, who mock'd his grateful
tongue,
The day with sudden darkness hung;
With pride and envy swell'd, aloud
A voice thus thunder'd from the cloud:

"Weak is this gaudy god of thine,
Whom I at will forbid to shine.
Shall I nor vows nor incense know?
Where praise is due, the praise bestow."

With fervent zeal the Persian moved,
Thus the proud calumny reproved:
"It was that God who claims my
prayer,

Who gave thee birth, and raised thee
there;

When o'er His beams the veil is thrown,
Thy substance is but plainer shown:
A passing gale, a puff of wind,
Dispels thy thickest troops combined."

The gale arose; the vapour tossed,
The sport of winds, in air was lost;
The glorious orb the day refines;
Thus envy breaks, thus merit shines.

~~~~~  
BLACK-EYED SUSAN.

ALL in the Downs the fleet was moor'd,  
The streamers waving in the wind,  
When black-eyed Susan came on board,  
"Oh, where shall I my true-love  
find?

Tell me, ye jovial sailors, tell me  
true,

Does my sweet William sail among you  
crew?"

William, who high upon the yard  
 Rock'd by the billows to and fro,  
 Soon as the well-known voice he heard,  
 He sigh'd and cast his eyes below ;  
 The cord flies swiftly through his glow-  
 ing hands,  
 And quick as lightning on the deck he  
 stands.

"O Susan, Susan, lovely dear,  
 My vows shall always true remain,  
 Let me kiss off that falling tear,—  
 We only part to meet again ;  
 Change as ye list, ye winds, my heart  
 shall be  
 The faithful compass that still points to  
 thee.

Believe not what the landsmen say,  
 Who tempt with doubts thy constant  
 mind ;  
 They tell thee sailors, when away,  
 In every port a mistress find ;  
 Yes, yes, believe them when they tell you  
 so,  
 For thou art present wheresoe'er I go."

The boatswain gave the dreadful word,  
 The sails their swelling bosom spread ;  
 No longer she must stay on board,—  
 They kiss'd, she sigh'd, he hung his  
 head :  
 Her lessening boat unwilling rows to  
 land,  
 'Adieu !' she cried, and wav'd her lily  
 hand.

[THOMAS PARNELL. 1679—1718.]

### THE HERMIT.

FAR in a wild, unknown to public view,  
 From youth to age a reverend hermit  
 grew ;  
 The moss his bed, the cave his humble  
 cell,  
 His food the fruits, his drink the crystal  
 well :  
 Remote from man, with God he pass'd  
 the days,  
 Prayer all his business, all his pleasure  
 praise

A life so sacred, such serene repose,  
 Seem'd heaven itself, till one suggestion  
 rose ;  
 That vice should triumph, virtue vice obey,  
 This sprung some doubt of Providence's  
 sway :  
 His hopes no more a certain prospect  
 boast,  
 And all the tenour of his soul is lost :  
 So when a smooth expanse receives im-  
 prest  
 Calm nature's image on its watery breast,  
 Down bend the banks, the trees depend-  
 ing grow,  
 And skies beneath with answering colours  
 glow ;  
 But if a stone the gentle scene divide,  
 Swift ruffling circles curl on every side,  
 And glimmering fragments of a broken  
 sun,  
 Banks, trees, and skies, in thick disorder  
 run.

To clear this doubt, to know the world  
 by sight,  
 To find if books, or swains, report it  
 right ;  
 (For yet by swains alone the world he  
 knew,  
 Whose feet came wandering o'er the  
 nightly dew,)  
 He quits his cell ; the pilgrim-staff he bore,  
 And fix'd the scallop in his hat before ;  
 Then with the sun a rising journey went,  
 Sedate to think, and watching each event.

The morn was wasted in the pathless  
 grass, [pass ;  
 And long and lonesome was the wild to  
 But when the southern sun had warm'd  
 the day,  
 A youth came posting o'er a crossing way ;  
 His raiment decent, his complexion fair,  
 And soft in graceful ringlets waved his  
 hair.  
 Then near approaching, "Father, hail !"   
 he cried,  
 "And hail, my son," the reverend sire  
 replied ;  
 Words follow'd words, from question  
 answer flow'd  
 And talk of various kind deceived the  
 road :



Till each with other pleased, and loth to  
part, [heart:  
While in their age they differ, join in  
Thus stands an aged elm in ivy bound,  
Thus youthful ivy clasps an elm around.

Now sunk the sun ; the closing hour of  
day

Came onward, mantled o'er with sober  
gray ;

Nature in silence bade the world repose :  
When near the road a stately palace rose :

There by the moon through ranks of trees  
they pass,

Whose verdure crown'd their sloping sides  
of grass.

It chanced the noble master of the dome,  
Still made his house the wandering  
stranger's home :

Yet still the kindness, from a thirst of  
praise,

Proved the vain flourish of expensive ease.  
The pair arrive : the liveried servants  
wait ;

Their lord receives them at the pompous  
gate.

The table groans with costly piles of food,  
And all is more than hospitably good.

Then led to rest, the day's long toil they  
drown,

Deep sunk in sleep, and silk, and heaps  
of down.

At length 'tis morn, and at the dawn of  
day,

Along the wide canals the zephyrs play ;  
Fresh o'er the gay parterres the breezes

creep,  
And shake the neighbouring wood to  
banish sleep.

Up rise the guests, obedient to the call,  
An early banquet deck'd the splendid  
hall ;

Rich luscious wine a golden goblet graced,  
Which the kind master forced the guests  
to taste.

Then, pleased and thankful, from the  
porch they go,

And, but the landlord, none had cause of  
woe ;

is cup was vanish'd ; for in secret guise  
Younger guest purloin'd the glittering  
prize.

As one who spies a serpent in his way,  
Glistening and basking in the summer ray,  
Disorder'd stops to shun the danger near,  
Then walks with faintness on, and looks  
with fear :

So seem'd the sire ; when far upon the  
road,

The shining spoil, his wily partner show'd.  
He stopp'd with silence, walk'd with trem-  
bling heart,

And much he wish'd, but durst not ask to  
part :

Murmuring he lifts his eyes, and thinks it  
hard,

That generous actions meet a base reward.

While thus they pass, the sun his glory  
shrouds,

The changing skies hang out their sable  
clouds ;

A sound in air presaged approaching rain,  
And beasts to covert scud across the plain.

Warn'd by the signs, the wandering pair  
retreat,

To seek for shelter at a neighbouring seat.  
'Twas built with turrets, on a rising  
ground,

And strong, and large, and unimproved  
around ;

Its owner's temper, timorous and severe,  
Unkind and griping, caused a desert  
there.

As near the miser's heavy doors they drew,  
Fierce rising gusts with sudden fury blew ;

The nimble lightning mix'd with showers  
began,

And o'er their heads loud rolling thunder  
ran.

Here long they knock, but knock or call  
in vain,

Driven by the wind, and batter'd by the  
rain.

At length some pity warm'd the master's  
breast,

('Twas then, his threshold first received  
a guest,) [care,

Slow creaking turns the door with jealous  
And half he welcomes in the shivering  
pair ;

One frugal fagot lights the naked walls,  
And nature's fervour through their limbs  
recalls : /

Bread of the coarsest sort, with eager  
wine,  
(Each hardly granted,) served them both  
to dine  
And when the tempest first appear'd to  
cease,  
A ready warning bid them part in peace.

With still remark the pondering hermit  
view'd  
In one so rich, a life so poor and rude ;  
And why should such (within himself he  
cried)  
Lock the lost wealth a thousand want  
beside ?  
But what new marks of wonder soon took  
place  
In every settling feature of his face !  
When from his vest the young companion  
bore  
That cup, the generous landlord own'd  
before,  
And paid profusely with the precious  
bowl  
The stinted kindness of this churlish soul !

But now the clouds in airy tumult fly,  
The sun emerging opes an azure sky ;  
A fresher green the smelling leaves dis-  
play,  
And, glittering as they tremble, cheer the  
day :  
The weather courts them from the poor  
retreat,  
And the glad master bolts the wary gate.

While hence they walk, the pilgrim's  
bosom wrought  
With all the travel of uncertain thought ;  
His partner's acts without their cause  
appear,  
'Twas there a vice, and seem'd a madness  
here :  
Detesting that, and pitying this, he goes,  
Lost and confounded with the various  
shows.

Now night's dim shades again involve the  
sky ;  
Again the wanderers want a place to lie,  
Again they search, and find a lodging  
nigh.

The soil improved around, the mansion  
neat,  
And neither poorly low, nor idly great :  
It seem'd to speak its master's turn of  
mind,  
Content, and not for praise, but virtue  
kind.

Hither the walkers turn with weary feet,  
Then bless the mansion, and the master  
greet :  
Their greeting fair bestow'd, with modest  
guise,  
The courteous master hears, and thus  
replies :

"Without a vain, without a grudging  
heart,  
To Him who gives us all, I yield a part ;  
From Him you come, for Him accept it  
here, [cheer."  
A frank and sober, more than costly  
He spoke, and bid the welcome table  
spread,  
Then talk'd of virtue till the time of bed,  
When the grave household round his hall  
repair,  
Warn'd by a bell, and close the hours  
with prayer.

At length the world renew'd by calm  
repose  
Was strong for toil, the dappled morn  
arose :  
Before the pilgrims part, the younger  
crept [slept,  
Near the closed cradle where an infant  
And writhed his neck : the landlord's  
little pride,  
O strange return ! grew black, and gasp'd,  
and died.  
Horror of horrors ! what ! his only son !  
How look'd our hermit when the fact was  
done ?  
Not hell, though hell's black jaws in  
sunder part,  
And breathe blue fire, could more assault  
his heart.

Confused, and struck with silence at the  
deed,  
He flies, but trembling falls to fly with  
speed.

His steps the youth pursues ; the country  
lay

Perplex'd with roads, a servant show'd  
the way :

A river cross'd the path ; the passage o'er  
Was nice to find ; the servant trod before ;  
Long arms of oaks an open bridge supplied,

And deep the waves beneath the bending  
glide.

The youth, who seem'd to watch a time  
to sin,

Approach'd the careless guide, and thrust  
him in ;

Plunging he falls, and rising lifts his head,  
Then flashing turns, and sinks among the  
dead.

Wild, sparkling rage inflames the father's  
eyes,

He bursts the bands of fear, and madly  
cries,

"Detested wretch !" — but scarce his  
speech began,

When the strange partner seem'd no  
longer man :

His youthful face grew more serenely  
sweet ;

His robe turn'd white, and flow'd upon  
his feet ;

Fair rounds of radiant points invest his  
hair ;

Celestial odours breathe through purpled  
air ;

And wings, whose colours glitter'd on the  
Wide at his back their gradual plumes  
display.

The form ethereal bursts upon his sight,  
And moves in all the majesty of light.

Though loud at first the pilgrim's passion  
grew,

Sudden he gazed, and wist not what to  
do ;

Surprise in secret chains his words sus-  
pends,

And in a calm his settling temper ends.  
But silence here the beauteous angel broke,  
(The voice of music ravish'd as he spoke).

"Thy prayer, thy praise, thy life to vice  
unknown,

In sweet memorial rise before the throne •

These charms, success in our bright  
region find,

And force an angel down, to calm thy  
mind ;

For this, commission'd, I forsook the  
sky,

Nay, cease to kneel—thy fellow-servant I.

' Then know the truth of government  
divine,

And let these scruples be no longer thine.

"The Maker justly claims that world He  
made,

In this the right of Providence is laid ;  
Its sacred majesty through all depends

On using second means to work His ends :  
'Tis thus, withdrawn in state from human  
eye,

The power exerts his attributes on high,  
Your actions uses, nor controls your will,  
And bids the doubting sons of men be  
still.

"What strange events can strike with  
more surprise

Than those which lately struck thy won-  
dering eyes ?

Yet taught by these, confess th' Almighty  
just,

And where you can't unriddle, learn to  
trust !

"The great, vain man, who fared on  
costly food,

Whose life was too luxurious to be good ;  
Who made his ivory stands with goblets  
shine,

And forced his guests to morning draughts  
of wine,

Has, with the cup, the graceless custom  
lost,

And still he welcomes, but with less of  
cost.

"The mean, suspicious wretch, whose  
bolted door

Ne'er moved in duty to the wandering  
poor ;

With him I left the cup, to teach his mind  
That Heaven can bless, if mortals will be  
kind.

Conscious of wanting worth, he views the  
bowl,  
And feels compassion touch his grateful  
soul.

Thus artists melt the sullen ore of lead,  
With heaping coals of fire upon its head ;  
In the kind warmth the metal learns to  
glow,  
And loose from dross, the silver runs  
below.

"Long had our pious friend in virtue trod,  
But now the child half-wean'd his heart  
from God ;  
(Child of his age,) for him he lived in  
pain,  
And measured back his steps to earth  
again.

To what excesses had this dotage run ?  
But God, to save the father, took the son.  
To all but thee, in fits he seem'd to go,  
(And 'twas my ministry to deal the blow).  
The poor fond parent, humbled in the  
dust,  
Now owns in tears the punishment was  
just.

"But how had all his fortune felt a wrack,  
Had that false servant sped in safety back !  
This night his treasured heaps he meant  
to steal,  
And what a fund of charity would fail !

"Thus Heaven instructs thy mind : this  
trial o'er,  
Depart in peace, resign, and sin no more."

On sounding pinions here the youth with-  
drew,  
The sage stood wondering as the seraph  
flew.  
Thus look'd Elisha, when, to mount on  
high,  
His master took the chariot of the sky ;  
The fiery pomp ascending left the view ;  
The prophet gazed, and wish'd to follow  
too.

The bending hermit here a prayer begun,  
"Lord ! as in heaven, on earth thy will  
be done !"  
Then gladly turning, sought his ancient  
place,  
And pass'd a life of piety and peace.

[EDWARD YOUNG. 1681—1765.]

### SLEEP.

Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy  
sleep !  
He, like the world, his ready visit pays  
Where fortune smiles ; the wretched he  
forsakes,  
Swift on his downy pinions flies from  
woe,  
And lights on lids unsullied by a tear !

### PROCRASTINATION.

BE wise to-day : 'tis madness to defer ;  
Next day the fatal precedent will plead ;  
Thus on, till wisdom is push'd out of life.  
Procrastination is the thief of time ;  
Year after year it steals till all are fled,  
And to the mercies of a moment leaves  
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.  
If not so frequent, would not this be  
strange ?  
That 'tis so frequent, this is stranger still.  
Of man's miraculous mistakes, this  
bears  
The palm, "That all men are about to  
live,"—  
For ever on the brink of being born.  
All pay themselves the compliment to  
think  
They one day shall not drivel : and their  
pride  
On this reversion takes up ready praise ;  
At least, their own ; their future selves  
applaud.  
How excellent that life—they ne'er will  
lead !  
Time lodged in their own hands is folly's  
vails,  
That lodged in fate's to wisdom they  
consign ;  
The thing they can't but purpose, they  
postpone.  
'Tis not in folly, not to scorn a fool ;  
And scarce in human wisdom, to do  
more.  
All promise is poor dilatory man,  
And that through every stage : when  
young, indeed,  
In full content we, sometimes, nobly rest,

Unanxious for ourselves ; and only wish,  
As dutecous sons, our fathers were more  
wise.

At thirty man suspects himself a fool ;  
Knows it at forty, and reforms his plan ;  
At fifty chides his infamous delay,  
Pushes his prudent purpose to resolve ;  
In all the magnanimity of thought  
Resolves ; and re-resolves ; then, dies the  
same.

And why ? Because he thinks himself  
immortal.

All men think all men mortal, but them-  
selves ;

Themselves, when some alarming shock  
of fate

Strikes through their wounded hearts  
the sudden dread.

But their hearts wounded, like the wounded  
air,

Soon close, where, past the shaft, no trace  
is found.

As from the wing, no scar the sky re-  
tains ;

The parted wave no furrow from the  
keel ;—

So dies in human hearts the thought of  
death,

E'en with the tender tear which Nature  
sheds

O'er those we love,—we drop it in their  
grave.

#### ON THE BEING OF A GOD.

RETIRE ;—The world shut out ;—thy  
thoughts call home :—

Imagination's airy wing repress :—  
Lock up thy senses ;—let no passions

stir ;—  
Wake all to Reason—let her reign alone ;

Then, in thy soul's deep silence, and the  
depth

Of Nature's silence, midnight, thus in-  
quire :

What am I ? and from whence ? I no-  
thing know

But that I am ; and, since I am, conclude  
Something eternal : had there e'er been

nought,  
Nought still had been : Eternal there  
must be—

But what eternal ? Why not human race,  
And Adam's ancestors without an end ?—  
That's hard to be conceived ; since ev'ry  
link

Of that long chain'd succession is so frail :  
Can every part depend, and not the  
whole ?

Yet grant it true ; new difficulties rise ;  
I'm still quite out at sea ; nor see the  
shore.

Whence earth, and these bright orbs ?—  
Eternal too ?

'Grant matter was eternal : still these orbs  
Would want some other Father—much  
design

Is seen in all their motions, all their  
makes.

Design implies intelligence and art,  
That can't be from themselves—or man ;  
that art

Man scarce can comprehend could man  
bestow ?

And nothing greater yet allow'd than  
man.— [grain,

Who motion, foreign to the smallest  
Shot through vast masses of enormous  
weight ?

Who bid brute matter's restive lump as-  
sume [fly ?

Such various forms, and gave it wings to  
Has matter innate motion ? Then each  
atom,

Asserting its indisputable right  
To dance, would form a universe of dust.

Has matter none ? Then whence these  
glorious forms

And boundless flights, from shapeless and  
reposed ?

Has matter more than motion ? Has it  
thought,

Judgment, and genius ? Is it deeply  
learn'd

In mathematics ? Has it framed such  
laws,

Which, but to guess, a Newton made im-  
mortal ?—

If art to form, and counsel to conduct,  
And that with greater far than human

skill,  
Reside not in each block ;—a GODHEAD

reigns :—  
And, if a GOD there is, that God how  
great !

[SIR DAVID DALRYMPLE, LORD HAILES.  
1726—1792.]

EDWARD! EDWARD!

"WHY does your brand so drop with blood?

Edward! Edward!  
Why does your brand so drop with blood,  
And why so sad go ye, O?"

"O! I have killed my hawk so good,  
Mother! Mother!  
O! I have killed my hawk so good,  
And I have no more but he, O!"

"Your hawk's blood was never so red,  
Edward! Edward!  
Your hawk's blood was never so red,  
My dear son, I tell thee, O!"

"O! I have killed my red roan steed,  
Mother! Mother!  
O! I have killed my red roan steed,  
That once was fair and free, O!"

"Your steed was old and ye have got more,  
Edward! Edward!  
Your steed was old and ye have got more,  
Some other dule you drie, O!"

"O! I have killed my father dear,  
Mother! Mother!  
O! I have killed my father dear,  
Alas, and woe is me, O!"

"And what penance will ye drie for that?  
Edward! Edward!  
And what penance will ye drie for that?  
My dear son, now tell me, O!"

"I'll set my feet in yonder boat,  
Mother! Mother!  
I'll set my feet in yonder boat,  
And I'll fare over the sea, O!"

"And what will you do with your towers and your hall?  
Edward! Edward!  
And what will you do with your towers and your hall,  
That were so fair to see, O!"

"I'll let them stand till they down fall,  
Mother! Mother!  
I'll let them stand till they down fall,  
For here never more must I be, O!"

"And what will you leave to your bairns and your wife?  
Edward! Edward!  
And what will you leave to your bairns and your wife,  
When you go over the sea, O?"

"The world's room, let them beg through life,  
Mother! Mother!  
The world's room, let them beg through life,  
For them never more will I see, O!"

"And what will you leave to your own mother dear?  
Edward! Edward!  
And what will you leave to your own mother dear?  
My dear son, now tell me, O!"

"The curse of hell from me shall you bear,  
Mother! Mother!  
The curse of hell from me shall you bear,  
Such counsels you gave to me, O!"

[THOMAS PERCY, BISHOP OF DROMORE.  
1728—1811.]

O NANNY, WILT THOU GO  
WITH ME?

O NANNY, wilt thou go with me,  
Nor sigh to leave the flaunting town?  
Can silent glens have charms for thee,—  
The lowly cot and russet gown?  
No longer drest in silken sheen,  
No longer deck'd with jewels rare,—  
Say, canst thou quit each courtly scene,  
Where thou wert fairest of the fair?

O Nanny, when thou'rt far away,  
Wilt thou not cast a wish behind?  
Say, canst thou face the parching ray,  
Nor shrink before the wintry wind?

Oh, can that soft and gentle mien  
Extremes of hardship learn to bear,  
Nor sad regret each courtly scene,  
Where thou wert fairest of the fair?

O Nanny, canst you love so true,  
Through perils keen with me to go;  
Or when thy swain mishap shall rue,  
To share with him the pang of woe?  
Say, should disease or pain befall,  
Wilt thou assume the nurse's care,  
Nor wistful those gay scenes recall,  
Where thou wert fairest of the fair?

And when at last thy love shall die,  
Wilt thou receive his parting breath,  
Wilt thou repress each struggling sigh,  
And cheer with smiles the bed of death?  
And wilt thou o'er his breathless clay  
Strew flowers and drop the tender  
tear,  
Nor then regret those scenes so gay,  
Where thou wert fairest of the fair?

#### THE FRIAR OF ORDERS GRAY.

It was a friar of orders gray  
Walk'd forth to tell his beads;  
And he met with a lady fair  
Clad in a pilgrim's weeds.

"Now Christ thee save, thou reverend  
friar,  
I pray thee tell to me,  
If ever at yon holy shrine  
My true-love thou didst see."

"And how should I know your true-love  
From many another one?"  
"Oh, by his cockle-hat and staff,  
And by his sandal shoon.

"But chiefly by his face and mien,  
That were so fair to view;  
His flaxen locks that sweetly curl'd,  
And eyes of lovely blue."

"O lady, he is dead and gone!  
Lady, he's dead and gone!  
And at his head a green-grass turf,  
And at his heels a stone.

"Within these holy cloisters long  
He languish'd, and he died  
Lamenting of a lady's love,  
And 'plaining of her pride.

"They bore him barefaced on his bier,  
Six proper youths and tall,  
And many a tear bedew'd his grave  
Within yon kirk-yard wall."

"And art thou dead, thou gentle youth!  
And art thou dead and gone;  
And didst thou die for love of me?  
Break, cruel heart of stone!"

"Oh, weep not, lady, weep not so,  
Some ghostly comfort seek;  
Let not vain sorrows rive thy heart,  
Nor tears bedew thy cheek."

"Oh, do not, do not, holy friar,  
My sorrow now reprove;  
For I have lost the sweetest youth  
That e'er won lady's love.

"And now, alas! for thy sad loss  
I'll ever weep and sigh;  
For aye I only wish'd to live,  
For thee I wish to die."

"Weep no more, lady, weep no more,  
Thy sorrow is in vain;  
For violets pluck'd, the sweetest shower  
Will ne'er make grow again.

"Our joys as wing'd dreams do fly,  
Why then should sorrow last?  
Since grief but aggravates thy loss,  
Grieve not for what is past."

"Oh, say not so, thou holy friar,  
I pray thee say not so;  
For since my true-love died for me,  
'Tis meet my tears should flow.

"And will he never come again?  
Will he ne'er come again?  
Ah! no, he is dead and laid in his grave,  
For ever to remain.

"His cheek was redder than the rose;  
The comeliest youth was he;  
But he is dead and laid in his grave:  
Alas, and woe is me!"

"Sigh no more, lady, sigh no more,  
Men were deceivers ever;  
One foot on sea and one on land,  
To one thing constant never.

"Hadst thou been fond, he had been false,  
And left thee sad and heavy;  
For young men ever were fickle found,  
Since summer trees were leafy."

"Now say not so, thou holy friar,  
I pray thee say not so;  
My love he had the truest heart,  
Oh, he was ever true!

"And art thou dead, thou much-lov'd youth,  
And didst thou die for me?  
Then farewell, home; for evermore  
A pilgrim I will be.

"But first upon my true-love's grave  
My weary limbs I'll lay,  
And thrice I'll kiss the green-grass turf  
That wraps his breathless clay."

"Yet stay, fair lady, rest awhile  
Beneath this cloister wall;  
See, through the hawthorn blows cold the  
wind,  
And drizzly rain doth fall."

"Oh, stay me not, thou holy friar;  
Oh, stay me not, I pray;  
No drizzly rain that falls on me  
Can wash my fault away."

"Yet stay, fair lady, turn again,  
And dry those pearly tears;  
For see, beneath this gown of grey  
Thy own true-love appears.

"Here, forced by grief and hopeless love,  
These holy weeds I sought,  
And here amid these lonely walls  
To end my days I thought.

"But haply, for my year of grace  
Is not yet pass'd away,  
Might I still hope to win thy love,  
No longer would I stay."

"Now farewell grief, and welcome joy  
Once more unto my heart;  
For since I have found thee, lovely youth,  
We never more will part."

[SAMUEL JOHNSON. 1709-1784.]

### PREFERMENT.

UNNUMBER'D suppliants crowd Prefer-  
ment's gate,  
A thirst for wealth, and burning to be  
great;  
Delusive Fortune hears the incessant call,  
They mount, they shine, evaporate, and  
fall.

On every stage the foes of peace attend,  
Hate dogs their flight, and insult mocks  
their end.

Love ends with hope, the sinking states-  
man's door

Pours in the morning-worshippers no  
more;

For growing names the weekly scribbler  
lies,

To growing wealth the dedicator flies;  
From every room descends the painted  
face,

That hung the bright Palladium of the  
place,

And smok'd in kitchens, or in auctions  
sold;

To better features yields the frame of gold;  
For now no more we trace in every line  
Heroic worth, benevolence divine:

The form distorted justifies the fall,  
And detestation rids th' indignant wall.

### CARDINAL WOLSEY.

IN full blown dignity see Wolsey stand,  
Law in his voice, and fortune in his hand:  
To him the church, the realm, their pow'r  
consign,

Through him the rays of regal bounty  
shine,

Still to new heights his restless wishes  
tow'r,

Claim: leads to claim, and pow'r advances  
pow'r;

Till conquest unresisted ceas'd to please,  
And rights submitted left him none to  
seize.

At length his sov'reign frowns—the train  
of state

Mark the keen glance, and watch the  
sign to hate.



Where'er he turns he meets a stranger's  
 eye,  
 His suppliants scorn him, and his fol-  
 lowers fly;  
 At once is lost the pride of awful state,  
 The golden canopy, the glittering plate,  
 The regal palace, the luxurious board,  
 The liveried army, and the menial lord.  
 With age, with cares, with maladies  
 oppress'd,  
 He seeks the refuge of monastic rest.  
 Grief aids disease, remember'd folly stings,  
 And his last sighs reproach the faith of  
 kings.

### CHARLES XII.

ON what foundation stands the warrior's  
 pride,  
 How just his hopes let Swedish Charles  
 decide;  
 A frame of adamant, a soul of fire,  
 No dangers fright him, and no labours  
 tire;  
 O'er love, o'er fear, extends his wide  
 domain,  
 Unconquer'd lord of pleasure and of pain;  
 No joys to him pacific sceptres yield,  
 War sounds the trump, he rushes to the  
 field;  
 Behold surrounding kings their pow'rs  
 combine,  
 And one capitulate, and one resign;  
 Peace courts his hand, but spreads her  
 charms in vain:  
 "Think nothing gain'd," he cries, "till  
 naught remain;  
 On Moscow's walls till Gothic standards  
 fly,  
 And all be mine beneath the polar sky."  
 The march begins in military state.  
 And nations on his eye suspended wait;  
 Stern famine guards the solitary coast,  
 And Winter barricades the realms of frost;  
 He comes, not want and cold his course  
 delay;  
 Hide, blushing Glory, hide Pultowa's day:  
 The vanquish'd hero leaves his broken  
 bands,  
 And shows his miseries in distant lands;  
 Condemn'd a needy supplicant to wait;  
 While ladies interpose, and slaves debate.

But did not chance at length her error  
 mend?  
 Did no subverted empire mark his end?  
 Or hostile millions press him to the ground?  
 His fall was destin'd to a barren strand,  
 A petty fortress, and a dubious hand:  
 He left the name, at which the world grew  
 pale,  
 To point a moral, or adorn a tale

### SHAKSPEARE AND BEN JONSON.

WHEN Learning's triumph o'er her bar-  
 barous foes  
 First rear'd the Stage, immortal Shak-  
 speare rose.  
 Each change of many-colour'd life he  
 drew,  
 Exhausted worlds, and then imagined new;  
 Existence saw him spurn her bounded  
 reign,  
 And panting Time toil'd after him in vain:  
 His powerful strokes presiding Truth im-  
 press'd,  
 And unresisted passion storm'd the breast.  
 Then Jonson came, instructed from the  
 school,  
 To please in method, and invent by rule,  
 His studious patience and laborious art,  
 By regular approach essay'd the heart;  
 Cold approbation gave the ling'ring bays,  
 For those who durst not censure, scarce  
 could praise;  
 A mortal born, he met the general doom,  
 But left, like Egypt's kings, a lasting  
 tomb.

### FRIENDSHIP.

FRIENDSHIP, peculiar boon of heaven,  
 The noble mind's delight and pride,  
 To men and angels only given,  
 To all the lower world denied.  
 While love, unknown among the blest,  
 Parent of thousand wild desires,  
 The savage and the human breast  
 Torments alike with raging fires.

With bright, but oft destructive gleam,  
Alike o'er all his lightnings fly,  
Thy lambent glories only beam  
Around the fav'rites of the sky.

Thy gentle flows of guiltless joys,  
On fools and villains ne'er descend;  
In vain for thee the tyrant sighs,  
And hugs a flatterer for a friend.

Directress of the brave and just,  
O guide us through life's darksome  
way!  
And let the tortures of mistrust  
On selfish bosoms only prey.

Nor shall thine ardours cease to glow,  
When souls to peaceful climes remove:  
What rais'd our virtue here below,  
Shall aid our happiness above.

[ANONYMOUS. 1744.]

#### BUSY, CURIOUS, THIRSTY FLY.

Busy, curious, thirsty fly,  
Drink with me, and drink as I;  
Freely welcome to my cup,  
Couldst thou sip, and sip it up.  
Make the most of life you may;  
Life is short, and wears away.

Both alike are mine and thine,  
Hastening quick to their decline;  
Thine's a summer, mine's no more,  
Though repeated to threescore;  
Threescore summers, when they're gone,  
Will appear as short as one.

[GEORGE LORD LYTTELTON. 1709—1773.]

#### TELL ME, MY HEART, IF THIS BE LOVE.

WHEN Delia on the plain appears,  
Aw'd by a thousand tender fears,  
I would approach, but dare not move;—  
Tell me, my heart, if this be love.

Whene'er she speaks, my ravish'd ear  
No other voice than hers can hear,  
No other wit but hers approve;—  
Tell me, my heart, if this be love.

If she some other swain commend,  
Though I was once his fondest friend,  
His instant enemy I prove;—  
Tell me, my heart, if this be love.

When she is absent, I no more  
Delight in all that pleas'd before—  
The clearest spring, the shadiest grove;—  
Tell me, my heart, if this be love.

When fond of power, of beauty vain,  
Her nets she spread for every swain,  
I strove to hate, but vainly strove;—  
Tell me, my heart, if this be love.

[JAMES MACPHERSON. 1738—1796.]

#### FATHER OF HEROES.

*Ossian.*

FATHER of Heroes, high dweller of ed-  
dying winds,  
Where the dark red thunder marks the  
troubled cloud,

Open thou thy stormy hall,  
Let the bards of old be near.  
We sit at the rock, but there is no voice,  
No light, but the meteor of fire.

O! from the rock on the hill,  
From the top of the windy steep,  
O! speak, ye ghosts of the dead—  
O! whither are ye gone to rest?  
In what cave of the hill shall we find the  
departed?

No feeble voice is on the gale,  
No answer half-drown'd in the storm.  
Father of heroes! the people bend be-  
fore thee, [brave,

Thou turnest the battle in the field of the  
Thy terrors pour the blasts of death,  
Thy tempests are before thy face,  
But thy dwelling is calm above the clouds  
The fields of thy rest are pleasant.

#### OSSIAN'S ADDRESS TO THE SUN.

O THOU that rollest above,  
Round as the shield of my fathers!  
Whence are thy beams, O sun!  
Thy everlasting light?

Thou comest forth in thine awful beauty ;  
 The stars hide themselves in the sky ;  
 The moon, cold and pale, sinks in the  
 western wave ;  
 But thou thyself movest alone.  
 Who can be companion of thy course ?  
 The oaks of the mountains fall ;  
 The mountains themselves decay with  
 years ;  
 The ocean shrinks and grows again ;  
 The moon herself is lost in heaven,  
 But thou art for ever the same,  
 Rejoicing in the brightness of thy course.  
 When the world is dark with tempests,  
 When thunder rolls and lightning flies,  
 Thou lookest in thy beauty from the  
 clouds  
 And laughest at the storm.  
 But to Ossian thou lookest in vain,  
 For he beholds thy beams no more ;  
 Whether thy yellow hair floats on the  
 eastern clouds,  
 Or tremblest at the gates of the west.  
 But thou art perhaps like me for a  
 season ;  
 Thy years will have an end.  
 Thou shalt sleep in thy clouds,  
 Careless of the voice of the morning.  
 Exult then, O sun, in the strength of thy  
 youth !

### RYNO AND ALPIN.

#### RYNO.

THE wind and the rain are past ;  
 Calm is the noon of day.  
 The clouds are divided in heaven.  
 Over the green hills flies the inconstant  
 sun.  
 Red through the stony vale,  
 Comes down the stream of the hill.  
 Sweet are thy murmurs, O stream !  
 But more sweet is the voice I hear.  
 It is the voice of Alpin the son of song,  
 Why alone on the silent hill ?  
 Why complainest thou as a blast in the  
 wood,  
 As a wave on the lonely shore ?

#### ALPIN.

My tears, O Ryno, are for the dead ;  
 My voice for those that have passed away.

Tall thou art on the hill ;  
 Fair among the sons of the vale.  
 But thou shalt fall like Morar ;  
 The mourner shall sit on the tomb.  
 The hills shall know thee no more ;  
 Thy bow shall lie in thy hall, unstrung !  
 Thou wert swift, O Morar ! as a roe on  
 the desert ;  
 Terrible as a meteor of fire.  
 Thy wrath was as the storm.  
 Thy sword in battle, as lightning in the  
 field.  
 Thy voice was a stream after rain ;  
 Like thunder on distant hills.  
 Many fell by thine arm ;  
 They were consumed in the flames of thy  
 wrath.  
 But when thou didst return from war ;  
 How peaceful was thy brow !  
 Thy face was like the sun after rain ;  
 Like the moon in the silence of night ;  
 Calm as the breast of the lake when the  
 loud wind is laid.  
 Narrow is thy dwelling now !  
 Dark the place of thine abode !  
 With three steps I compass thy grave,  
 O thou who wast so great before.  
 Four stones with their heads of moss,  
 Are the only memorial of thee.  
 A tree with scarce a leaf,  
 Long grass which whistles in the wind,  
 Mark to the hunter's eye  
 The grave of the mighty Morar.  
 Morar, thou art low indeed.  
 Thou hast no mother to mourn thee ;  
 No maid with her tears of love,  
 Dead is she that brought thee forth.  
 Fallen is the daughter of Morglan.  
 Who on his staff is this ?  
 Who is this whose head is white with  
 age ?  
 Whose eyes are red with tears ?  
 Who quakes at every step ?  
 It is thy father, O Morar !  
 The father of no son but thee.

[NATHANIEL COTTON. 1707—1788.]

### THE FIRESIDE.

DEAR Chloe, while the busy crowd,  
 The vain, the wealthy, and the proud,

In folly's maze advance;  
Though singularity and pride  
Be call'd our choice, we'll step aside,  
Nor join the giddy dance.

From the gay world we'll oft retire  
To our own family and fire,  
Where love our hours employs;  
No noisy neighbour enters here,  
No intermeddling stranger near,  
To spoil our heartfelt joys.

If solid happiness we prize,  
Within our breast this jewel lies;  
And they are fools who roam;  
The world hath nothing to bestow,  
From our ourselves our bliss must flow,  
And that dear hut—our home.

Of rest was Noah's dove bereft,  
When with impatient wing she left  
That safe retreat, the ark;  
Giving her vain excursions o'er,  
The disappointed bird once more  
Explor'd the sacred bark.

Though fools spurn Hymen's gentle  
pow'rs,  
We who improve his golden hours,  
By sweet experience know,  
That marriage, rightly understood,  
Gives to the tender and the good  
A paradise below!

[WILLIAM COWPER. 1731—1800.]

#### RURAL SOUNDS.

NOR rural sights alone, but rural  
sounds,  
Exhilarate the spirit, and restore  
The tone of languid nature. Mighty  
winds,  
That sweep the skirt of some far-spread-  
ing wood [like  
Of ancient growth, make music not un-  
The dash of Ocean on his winding shore,  
And lull the spirit while they fill the  
mind;  
Unnumber'd branches waving in the  
blast,  
And all their leaves fast fluttering, all at  
once

Nor less composure waits upon the roar  
Of distant floods, or on the softer voice  
Of neighb'ring fountain, or of rills that  
slip  
Through the cleft rock, and, chiming as  
they fall  
Upon loose pebbles, lose themselves at  
length  
In matted grass, that with a livelier  
green  
Betrays the secret of their silent course.  
Nature inanimate employs sweet sounds,  
But animated nature sweeter still,  
To soothe and satisfy the human ear.  
Ten thousand warblers cheer the day,  
and one  
The live-long night: nor these alone,  
whose notes  
Nice-finger'd Art must emulate in vain,  
But cawing rooks, and kites that swim  
sublime  
In still repeated circles, screaming loud,  
The jay, the pie, and even the boding  
owl,  
That hails the rising moon, have charms  
for me.  
Sounds inharmonious in themselves and  
harsh,  
Yet heard in scenes where peace for ever  
reigns,  
And only there, please highly for their  
sake.\*

#### MOVEMENT AND ACTION THE LIFE OF NATURE.

By ceaseless action all that is subsists.  
Constant rotation of the unwearied wheel,  
That Nature rides upon, maintains her  
health,  
Her beauty, her fertility. She dreads  
An instant's pause, and lives but while  
she moves.  
Its own revolency upholds the world.  
Winds from all quarters agitate the air,  
And fit the limpid element for use,  
Else noxious; oceans, rivers, lakes, and  
streams,  
All feel the fresh'ning impulse, and are  
cleansed

\* Comp. Shaksp., *Merch. of Ven.*

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 The moon, cold and pale, sinks in the  
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 But thou thyself movest alone.  
 Who can be companion of thy course ?  
 The oaks of the mountains fall ;  
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 The ocean shrinks and grows again ;  
 The moon herself is lost in heaven,  
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 When the world is dark with tempests,  
 When thunder rolls and lightning flies,  
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 Calm as the breast of the lake when the  
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The dash of Ocean on his winding shore,  
And lull the spirit while they fill the  
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And all their leaves fast fluttering, all at  
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Of distant floods, or on the softer voice  
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Her beauty, her fertility. She dreads  
An instant's pause, and lives but while  
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Its own revolvency upholds the world.  
Winds from all quarters agitate the air,  
And fit the limpid element for use,  
Else noxious; oceans, rivers, lakes, and  
streams,  
All feel the fresh'ning impulse, and are  
cleansed

\* Comp. Shaksp., *Merch. of Ven.*

By restless undulation ; even the oak  
Thrives by the rude concussion of the  
storm :

He seems indeed indignant, and to feel  
The impression of the blast with proud  
disdain,

Frowning, as if in his unconscious arm  
He held the thunder : but the monarch  
owes

His firm stability to what he scorns,  
More fix'd below, the more disturb'd  
above.

The law, by which all creatures else are  
bound,

Binds man, the lord of all. Himself  
derives

No mean advantage from a kindred  
cause,

From strenuous toil his hours of sweetest  
ease.

The sedentary stretch their lazy length  
When Custom bids, but no refreshment  
find,

For none they need : the languid eye, the  
cheek

Deserted of its bloom, the flaccid, shrunk,  
And wither'd muscle, and the vapid soul,  
Reproach their owner with that love of  
rest,

To which he forfeits even the rest he  
loves.

Not such the alert and active. Measure  
life

By its true worth, the comforts it affords,  
And theirs alone seems worthy of the  
name.

Good health, and, its associate in the  
most,

\* Good temper ; spirits prompt to under-  
take,

And not soon spent, though in an arduous  
task ;

The powers of fancy and strong thought  
are theirs ;

Even age itself seems privileged in them  
With clear exemption from its own  
defects.

A sparkling eye beneath a wrinkled ~~front~~ ;  
The veteran shows, and, gracing a gray  
beard

With youthful smiles, descends towards  
the grave

Sprightly, and old almost without decay.

## TRUE GAIETY.

WHOM call we gay ? That, honour has  
been long

The boast of mere pretenders to the  
name.

The innocent are gay—the lark is gay,  
That dries his feathers, saturate with dew,  
Beneath the rosy cloud, while yet the  
beams

Of day-spring overshoot his humble nest :  
The peasant, too, a witness of his song,

Himself a songster, is as gay as he.  
But save me from the gaiety of those,

Whose headaches nail them to a noonday  
bed ;

And save me too from theirs, whose  
haggard eyes

Flash desperation, and betray their pangs  
For property stripp'd off by cruel chance ;

From gaiety that fills the bones with pain,  
The mouth with blasphemy, the heart  
with woe.



## THE NEWSPAPER.

Now stir the fire, and close the shutters  
fast,

Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa  
round,

And, while the bubbling and loud-hissing  
urn

Throws up a steaming column, and the  
cups,

That cheer but not inebriate, wait on  
each,

So let us welcome peaceful ev'ning in.  
Not such his ev'ning, who with shining

face  
Sweats in the crowded theatre, and,  
squeez'd

And bor'd with elbow-points through  
both his sides,

Outcolds the ranting actor on the stage :  
Nor his, who patient stands till his feet

throb,  
And his head thumps, to feed upon the  
breath

Of patriots, bursting with heroic rage,  
Or placemen, all tranquillity and smiles.

This folio of four pages, happy work !

Which not even critics criticise; that holds

Inquisitive attention, while I read,  
Fast bound in chains of silence, which the fair,

Though eloquent themselves, yet fear to break;

What is it but a map of busy life,  
Its fluctuations, and its vast concern?

Here runs the mountainous and craggy ridge,

That tempts Ambition. On the summit see

The seals of office glitter in his eyes;  
He climbs, he pants, he grasps them!

At his heels,  
Close at his heels, a demagogue ascends,

And with a dextrous jerk soon twists him down,

And wins them, but to lose them in his turn.

Here rills of oily eloquence in soft  
Meanders lubricate the course they take;

The modest speaker is ashamed and grieved,

T'ingross a moment's notice; and yet  
Begs a propitious ear for his poor thoughts,

However trivial all that he conceives.  
Sweet bashfulness! it claims at least this

praise;  
The dearth of information and good

sense,  
That it fortells us, always comes to pass.

Cat'racts of declamation thunder here;  
There forests of no meaning spread the

page,  
In which all comprehension wanders lost;

While fields of pleasantries amuse us there  
With merry descants on a nation's woes.

The rest appears a wilderness of strange  
But gay confusion; roses for the cheeks,

And lilies for the brows of faded age,  
Teeth for the toothless, ringlets for the

bald,  
Heaven, earth and ocean, plunder'd of

their sweets,  
Nectareous essences, Olympian dews,

Sermons, and city feasts, and favourite airs,  
Æthereal journeys, submarine exploits,

And Katerfelto, with his hair on end  
At his own wonders, wondering for his

bread.

THE WORLD, AS SEEN FROM  
THE STUDY OF A CONTEMPORATIVE MAN.

'Tis pleasant, through the loopholes of  
retreat,

To peep at such a world; to see the stir  
Of the great Babel, and not feel the

crowd;  
To hear the roar she sends through all

her gates  
At a safe distance, where the dying sound

Falls a soft murmur on the uninjur'd  
ear.

Thus sitting, and surveying thus at ease  
The globe and its concerns, I seem ad-

vanc'd  
To some secure and more than mortal

height,  
That liberates and exempts me from them

all.  
It turns submitted to my view, turns

round  
With all its generations; I behold

The tumult, and am still. The sound of  
war

Has lost its terrors ere it reaches me;  
Grieves, but alarms me not. I mourn

the pride  
And advice, that make man a wolf to

man;  
Hear the faint echo of those brazen

throats,  
By which he speaks the language of his

heart,  
And sigh, but never tremble at the sound.

He travels and expatiates, as the bee  
From flower to flower, so he from land to

land;  
The manners, customs, policy, of all

Pay contribution to the store he gleans;  
He sucks intelligence in every clime,

And spreads the honey of his deep re-  
search

At his return—a rich repast for me.  
He travels, and I too. I tread his deck,

Ascend his topmast, through his peering  
eyes

Discover countries, with a kindred heart  
Suffer his woes, and share in his escapes;

While fancy, like the finger of a clock,  
Runs the great circuit, and is still at

home.



### THE DOMESTIC WINTER EVENING.

O WINTER, ruler of the inverted year,  
Thy scatter'd hair with sleet like ashes  
fill'd,  
Thy breath congeal'd upon thy lips, thy  
cheeks  
Fring'd with a beard made white with  
other snows  
Than those of age, thy forehead wrapp'd  
in clouds,  
A leafless branch thy sceptre, and thy  
throne  
A sliding car, indebted to no wheels,  
But urg'd by storms along its slipp'ry  
way,  
I love thee, all unlovely as thou seem'st,  
And dreaded as thou art ! Thou hold'st  
the sun  
A pris'ner in the yet undawning east,  
Short'ning his journey between morn and  
noon,  
And hurrying him, impatient of his stay,  
Down to the rosy west ; but kindly still  
Compensating his loss with added hours  
Of social converse and instructive ease,  
And gath'ring at short notice, in one  
group  
The family dispers'd, and fixing thought,  
Not less dispers'd by daylight and its  
cares.  
I crown thee king of intimate delights,  
Fireside enjoyments, homeborn happiness,  
And all the comforts that the lowly roof  
Of undisturb'd retirement, and the hours  
Of long uninterrupted ev'ning, know.  
No rattling wheels stop short before these  
gates ;  
No powder'd pert proficient in the art  
Of sounding an alarm assaults these  
doors  
Till the street rings ; no stationary steeds  
Cough their own knell, while, heedless of  
the sound,  
The silent circle fan themselves, and  
quake :  
But here the needle plies its busy task,  
The pattern grows, the well-depicted  
flow'r,  
Wrought patiently into the snowy lawn,  
Unfolds its bosom ; buds, and leaves, and  
sprigs,

And curling tendrils, gracefully dispos'd,  
Follow the nimble finger of the fair ;  
A wreath, that cannot fade, of flow'rs,  
that blow  
With most success when all besides decay.  
The poet's or historian's page by one  
Made vocal for the amusement of the rest ;  
The sprightly lyre, whose treasure of  
sweet sounds  
The touch from many a trembling chord  
shakes out ;  
And the clear voice symphonious, yet  
distinct, [still,  
And in the charming strife triumphant  
Beguile the night, and set a keener edge  
On female industry : the threaded steel  
Flies swiftly, and unfelt the task proceeds.  
The volume clos'd, the customary rites  
Of the last meal commence. A Roman  
meal ;  
Such as the mistress of the world once  
found  
Delicious, when her patriots of high note,  
Perhaps by moonlight, at their humble  
doors,  
And under an old oak's domestic shade,  
Enjoy'd spare feast, a radish and an egg.  
Discourse ensues, not trivial, yet not dull,  
Nor such as with a frown forbids the play  
Of fancy, or prescribes the sound of mirth :  
Nor do we madly, like an impious world,  
Who deem religion frenzy, and the God,  
That made them, an intruder on their  
joys,  
Start at his awful name, or deem his  
praise  
A jarring note. Themes of a graver tone,  
Exciting oft our gratitude and love,  
While we retrace with Mem'ry's pointing  
wand,  
That calls the past to our exact review,  
The dangers we have 'scaped, the broken  
snare,  
The disappointed foe, deliv'rance found  
Unlook'd for, life preserv'd, and peace  
restor'd,  
Fruits of omnipotent eternal love.  
O ev'nings worthy of the gods ! exclaim'd  
The Sabine bard. O ev'nings, I reply,  
More to be prized and coveted than yours,  
As more illumin'd, and with nobler truths,  
That I, and mine, and those we love,  
enjoy. /

## A WINTER REVERIE.

JUST when our drawing-rooms begin to blaze

With lights, by clear reflection multiplied  
From many a mirror, in which he of Gath,  
Goliath, might have seen his giant bulk  
Whole without stooping, towering crest  
and all,

My pleasures too begin. But me perhaps  
The glowing hearth may satisfy a while  
With faint illumination, that uplifts  
The shadows to the ceiling, there by fits  
Dancing uncouthly to the quivering flame.  
Not undelightful is an hour to me  
So spent in parlour twilight : such a gloom  
Suits well the thoughtful or unthinking  
mind,

The mind contemplative, with some new  
theme

Pregnant, or indisposed alike to all.

Laugh ye, who boast your more mercurial  
powers,

That never felt a stupor, know no pause,  
Nor need one ; I am conscious and confess  
Fearless a soul, that does not always  
think.

Me oft has fancy ludicrous and wild  
Soothed with a waking dream of houses,  
towers,

Trees, churches, and strange visages, ex-  
pressed

In the red cinders, while with poring eye  
I gazed, myself creating what I saw.

Nor less amused have I quiescent watched  
The sooty films, that play upon the bars

Pendulous, and foreboding in the view  
Of superstition, prophesying still,

Though still deceived, some stranger's  
near approach.

'Tis thus the understanding takes repose  
In indolent vacuity of thought,

And sleeps and is refreshed. Meanwhile  
the face

Conceals the mood lethargic with a mask  
Of deep deliberation, as the man

Were tasked to his full strength, absorbed  
and lost.

Thus oft, reclined at ease, I lose an hour  
At evening, till at length the freezing  
blast,

That sweeps the bolted shutter, summons  
home

The recollected powers ; and snapping  
short

The glassy threads, with which the fancy  
weaves

Hier brittle toils, restores me to myself.

How calm is my recess ; and how the  
frost,

Raging abroad, and the rough wind  
endear

The silence and the warmth enjoyed  
within !

I saw the woods and fields at close of  
day,

A variegated show ; the meadows green,  
Though faded ; and the lands, where  
lately waved

The golden harvest, of a mellow brown,  
Upturned so lately by the forceful share.

I saw far off the weedy fallows smile  
With verdure not unprofitable, grazed

By flocks, fast feeding, and selecting each  
His favourite herb ; while all the leafless  
groves

That skirt the horizon, wore a sable hue,  
Scarce noticed in the kindred dusk of  
eve.

To-morrow brings a change, a total  
change !

Which even now, though silently per-  
formed,

And slowly, and by most unfelt, the face  
Of universal nature undergoes.

Fast falls a fleecy shower ; the downy  
flakes

Descending, and with never-ceasing lapse  
Softly alighting upon all below,

Assimilate all objects. Earth receives  
Gladly the thickening mantle ; and the  
green

And tender blade, that feared the chilling  
blast,

Escapes unhurt beneath so warm a veil.



## THE WINTER MORNING WALK.

'Tis morning ; and the sun, with ruddy  
orb

Ascending, fires the horizon ; while the  
clouds,

That crowd away before the driving wind,  
More ardent as the disk emerges more,

Resemble most some city in a blaze

Seen through the leafless wood. His  
slanting ray

Slides ineffectual down the snowy vale,  
And, tinging all with his own rosy hue,  
From every herb and every spiry blade  
Stretches a length of shadow o'er the field.  
Mine, spindling into longitude immense,  
In spite of gravity, and sage remark  
That I myself am but a fleeting shade,  
Provokes me to a smile. With eye  
askance

I view the muscular proportioned limb  
Transformed to a lean shank. The shape-  
less pair,

As they designed to mock me, at my side  
Take step for step; and, as I near  
approach

The cottage, walk along the plastered  
wall,

Preposterous sight! the legs without the  
man.

The verdure of the plain lies buried deep  
Beneath the dazzling deluge; and the  
bents,

And coarser grass, upspearing o'er the  
rest,

Of late unsightly and unseen, now shine  
Conspicuous, and in bright apparel clad,  
And fledged with icy feathers, nod superb.  
The cattle mourn in corners where the  
fence

Screens them, and seem half petrified to  
sleep

In unrecumbent sadness. There they wait  
Their wonted fodder; not like hungering  
man,

Fretful if unsupplied; but silent, meek,  
And patient of the slow-paced swain's  
delay.

He from the stack carves out the accus-  
tomed load,

Deep-plunging, and again deep-plunging  
oft,

His broad keen knife into the solid mass:  
Smooth as a wall the upright remnant  
stands,

With such undeviating and even force.  
He scvers it away; no needless care,  
Lest storms should upset the leaning  
pile

Deciduous, or its own unbalanced weight.  
Forth goes the woodman, leaving uncon-  
cerned

The cheerful haunts of man, to wield the  
axe

And drive the wedge in yonder forest  
dear,

From morn to eve his solitary task.

Shaggy, and lean, and shrewd, with  
pointed ears

And tail cropped short, half lurcher and  
half cur,

His dog attends him. Close behind his  
heel

How creeps he slow; and now, with many  
a frisk

Wide-scampering, snatches up the drifted  
snow

With ivory teeth, or ploughs it with his  
snout;

Then shakes his powdered coat, and barks  
for joy.

Heedless of all his pranks, the sturdy churl  
Moves right toward the mark: nor stops  
for aught,

But now and then with pressure of his  
thumb

To adjust the fragrant charge of a short  
tube,

That fumes beneath his nose: the trailing  
cloud

Streams far behind him, scenting all the  
air.

Now from the roost, or from the neigh-  
bouring pale,

Where, diligent to catch the first faint  
gleam

Of smiling day, they gossiped side by  
side,

Come trooping at the housewife's well-  
known call

The feather'd tribes domestic. Half on  
wing,

And half on foot, they brush the fleecy  
flood,

Conscious and fearful of too deep a plunge.  
The sparrows peep, and quit the shelter-  
ing eaves

To seize the fair occasion. Well they eye  
The scattered grain, and thievishly resolved  
To escape the impending famine, often  
scared

As oft return, a pert voracious kind.

Clean riddance quickly made, one only  
care

Remains to each, the search of sunny nook,

Or shed impervious to the blast. Re-  
signed  
To sad necessity, the cock foregoes  
His wonted strut; and wading at their  
head  
With well-considered steps, seems to  
resent  
His altered gait and stateliness retrenched.  
How find the myriads, that in summer  
cheer  
The hills and valleys with their ceaseless  
songs,  
Due sustenance, or where subsist they  
now?  
Earth yields them nought; the imprisoned  
worm is safe  
Beneath the frozen clod; all seeds of  
herbs  
Lie covered close; and berry-bearing  
thorns  
That feed the thrush, (whatever some sup-  
pose)  
Afford the smaller minstrels no supply.

### THE WINTER WALK AT NOON.

Now at noon  
Upon the southern side of the slant hills,  
And where the woods fence off the  
northern blast,  
The season smiles, resigning all its rage,  
And has the warmth of May. The vault  
is blue  
Without a cloud, and white without a  
speck  
The dazzling splendour of the scene  
below.  
Again the harmony comes o'er the vale;  
And through the trees I view th' embattled  
tower,  
Whence all the music. I again perceive  
The soothing influence of the wafted  
strains,  
And settle in soft musings as I tread  
The walk, still verdant, under oaks and  
elms,  
Whose outspread branches overarch the  
glade.  
The roof, though moveable through all its  
length  
As the wind sways it, has yet well suf-  
ficed,

And, intercepting in their silent fall  
The frequent flakes, has kept a path for  
me.  
No noise is here, or none that hinders  
thought.  
The redbreast warbles still, but is content  
With slender notes, and more than half-  
suppressed;  
Pleased with his solitude, and fitting  
light  
From spray to spray, where'er he rests he  
shakes  
From many a twig the pendent drops of  
ice,  
That tinkle in the withered leaves below.  
Stillness, accompanied with sounds so  
soft,  
Charms more than silence. Meditation,  
here  
May think down hours to moments.  
Here the heart  
May give an useful lesson to the head,  
And Learning wiser grow without his  
books.  
Knowledge and Wisdom far from being  
one,  
Have oftimes no connexion. Knowledge  
dwells  
In heads replete with thoughts of other  
men;  
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.  
Knowledge, a rude unprofitable mass,  
The mere materials with which Wisdom  
builds,  
Till smoothed, and squared, and fitted to  
its place,  
Does but encumber whom it seems t' en-  
rich.  
Knowledge is proud that he has learned  
so much;  
Wisdom is humble that he knows no  
more.  
Books are not seldom talismans and spells,  
By which the magic art of shrewder wits  
Holds an unthinking multitude enthralled.  
Some to the fascination of a name  
Surrender judgment, hoodwinked. Some  
the style  
Infatuates, and through labyrinths and  
wilds  
Of error leads them, by a tune entranced.  
While sloth seduces more, too weak to  
bear

The insupportable fatigue of thought,  
And swallowing therefore without pause  
or choice,

The total grist unsifted, husks and all.  
But trees and rivulets, whose rapid course  
Defies the check of winter, haunts of deer,  
And sheep-walks populous with bleating  
lambs,

And lanes in which the primrose ere her  
time

Peeps through the moss, that clothes the  
hawthorn root,

Deceive no student. Wisdom there, and  
truth,

Not shy, as in the world, and to be won  
By slow solicitation, seize at once  
The roving thought, and fix it on them-  
selves.

#### THE HAPPINESS OF ANIMALS.

HERE unmolested, through whatever sign  
The sun proceeds, I wander. Neither  
mist,

Nor freezing sky nor sultry, checking me,  
Nor stranger, intermeddling with my joy.  
Even in the spring and playtime of the  
year,

That calls th' unwonted villager abroad  
With all her little ones, a sportive train,  
To gather kingcups in the yellow mead,  
And prink their hair with daisies, or to  
pick

A cheap but wholesome salad from the  
brook,

These shades are all my own. The  
timorous hare,

Grown so familiar with her frequent guest,  
Scarce shuns me ; and the stockdove un-  
alarmed

Sits cooing in the pine-tree, nor suspends  
His long love-ditty for my near approach.  
Drawn from his refuge in some lonely  
elm,

That age or injury has hollowed deep,  
Where, on his bed of wool and matted  
leaves,

He has outslept the winter, ventures forth  
To frisk a while, and bask in the warm  
sun,

The squirrel, flippant, pert, and full of  
play ;

He sees me, and at once, swift as a bird,

Ascends the neighbouring beech ; there  
whisks his brush,  
And perks his ears, and stamps, and  
cries aloud,  
With all the prettiness of feigned alarm,  
And anger, insignificantly fierce.

The heart is hard in nature, and unfit  
For human fellowship, as being void  
Of sympathy, and therefore dead alike  
To love and friendship both, that is not  
pleased

With sight of animals enjoying life,  
Nor feels their happiness augment his  
own.

The bounding fawn, that darts along the  
glade

When none pursues, through mere delight  
of heart,

And spirits boyant with excess of glee ;  
The horse as wanton, and almost as fleet,  
That skims the spacious meadow at full  
speed,

Then stops, and snorts, and, throwing  
high his heels,

Starts to the voluntary race again ;  
The very kine, that gambol at high noon,  
The total herd receiving first from one,  
That leads the dance, a summons to be  
gay,

Though wild their strange vagaries, and  
uncouth

Their efforts, yet resolved with one con-  
sent [may

To give such act and utterance, as they  
To ecstasy too big to be suppressed—  
These, and a thousand images of bliss,

With which kind Nature graces every  
scene,

Where cruel man defeats not her design,  
Impart to the benevolent, who wish  
All that are capable of pleasure pleased,  
A far superior happiness to theirs,  
The comfort of a reasonable joy.

#### THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN ENGLAND.

SLAVES cannot breathe in England ; if  
their lungs  
Receive our air, that moment they are  
free.

They touch our country and their shackles fall.  
 That's noble, and bespeaks a nation proud  
 And jealous of the blessing. Spread it then,  
 And let it circulate through every vein  
 Of all your Empire, that where Britain's power  
 Is felt, mankind may feel her mercy too!

~~~~~  
 ANTICIPATION OF THE
 MILLENIUM.

THE groans of Nature in this nether world,
 Which Heaven has heard for ages, have an end.
 Foretold by prophets, and by poets sung,
 Whose fire was kindled at the prophet's lamp,
 The time of rest, the promised sabbath, comes.
 Six thousand years of sorrow have well-nigh
 Fulfilled their tardy and disastrous course
 Over a sinful world; and what remains
 Of this tempestuous state of human things
 Is merely as the working of the sea
 Before a calm, that rocks itself to rest:
 For He, whose car the winds are, and the clouds
 The dust that waits upon his sultry march,
 When sin hath moved him, and his wrath is hot,
 Shall visit earth in mercy; shall descend
 Propitious in his chariot paved with love;
 And what his storms have blasted and defaced
 For man's revolt, shall with a smile repair.

Sweet is the harp of prophecy; too sweet
 Not to be wronged by a mere mortal touch:
 Nor can the wonders it records be sung
 To meaner music, and not suffer loss.
 But when a poet, or when one like me,
 Happy to rove among poetic flowers,

Though poor in skill to rear them, lights at last,
 On some fair theme, some theme divinely fair,
 Such is the impulse and the spur he feels
 To give it praise proportioned to its worth,
 That not t' attempt it, arduous as he deems
 The labour, were a task more arduous still.

O scenes surpassing fable, and yet true,
 Scenes of accomplished bliss! which who can see,
 Though but in distant prospect, and not feel
 His soul refreshed with foretaste of the joy?
 Rivers of gladness water all the earth,
 And clothe all climes with beauty; the reproach
 Of barrenness is past. The fruitful field
 Laughs with abundance; and the land, once lean,
 Or fertile only in its own disgrace,
 Exults to see its thistly curse repealed.
 The various seasons woven into one,
 And that one season an eternal spring,
 The garden fears no blight, and needs no fence,
 For there is none to covet, all are full.
 The lion, and the libbard, and the bear,
 Graze with the fearless flocks; all bask at noon
 Together, or all gambol in the shade
 Of the same grove, and drink one common stream.
 Antipathies are none. No foe to man
 Lurks in the serpent now; the mother sees,
 And smiles to see, her infant's playful hand
 Stretched forth to dally with the crested worm,
 To stroke his azure neck, or to receive
 The lambent homage of his arrowy tongue.
 All creatures worship man, and all mankind
 One Lord, one Father. Error has no place:
 That creeping pestilence is driven away

The breath of Heaven has chased it. In
the heart

No passion touches a discordant string,
But all is harmony and love. Disease
Is not ; the pure and uncontaminated blood
Holds its due course, nor fears the frost
of age.

One song employs all nations ; and all cry,
" Worthy the Lamb, for he was slain for
us ! "

The dwellers in the vales and on the
rocks

Shout to each other, and the mountain-
tops

From distant mountains catch the flying
joy ;

Till, nation after nation taught the strain,
Earth rolls the rapturous Hosanna round.
Behold the measure of the promise filled ;
See Salem built, the labour of a God !

Bright as a sun the sacred city shines ;
All kingdoms and all princes of the earth
Flock to that light ; the glory of all lands
Flows into her ; unbounded is her joy,
And endless her increase. Thy rams are
there,

Nebaioth, and the flocks of Kedar there :
The looms of Ormus, and the mines of Ind,
And Saba's spicy groves, pay tribute
there.

Praise is in all her gates ; upon her walls,
And in her streets, and in her spacious
courts

Is heard salvation. Eastern Java there
Kneels with the native of the farthest
west ;

And Æthiopia spreads abroad the hand,
And worships. Her report has travelled
forth

Into all lands. From every clime they
come

To see thy beauty, and to share thy joy,
O Sion ! an assembly such as earth
Saw never, such as Heaven stoops down
to see.

BUNYAN'S PILGRIM'S PROGRESS.

O THOU, whom, borne on fancy's eager
wing
Back to the season of life's happy spring,

I pleas'd remember, and, while mem'ry
yet

Holds fast her office here, can ne'er for-
get ;

Ingenious dreamer, in whose well told
tale

Sweet fiction and sweet truth alike pre-
vail ;

Whose hum'rous vein, strong sense, and
simple style,

May teach the gayest, make the gravest
smile ;

Witty, and well-employ'd, and, like thy
Lord,

Speaking in parables his slighted word ;
I name thee not, lest so despis'd a name

Should move a sneer at thy deserved
fame ;

Yet even in transitory life's late day,
That mingles all my brown with sober

gray,
Revere the man, whose pilgrim marks
the road,

And guides the progress of the soul to
God.

'Twere well with most, if books, that
could engage

Their childhood, pleas'd them at a riper
age ;

The man, approving what had charmed
the boy,

Would die at last in comfort, peace, and
joy ;

And not with curses on his heart, who
stole

The gem of truth from his unguarded
soul.

ON THE RECEIPT OF A MOTHER'S PICTURE.

O THAT those lips had language ! Lif
has pass'd

With me but roughly since I heard thee
last.

Those lips are thine—thy own sweet
smiles I see,

The same, that oft in childhood solac'd
me ;

Voice only fails, else how distinct they
say,

" Grieve not, my child, chase all thy
fears away ! "

The meek intelligence of those dear eyes
(Blest be the art that can immortalize,
The art that baffles Time's tyrannic claim
To quench it) here shines on me still the same.

Faithful remembrancer of one so dear,
O welcome guest, though unexpected here!

Who bidd'st me honor with an artless song,

Affectionate, a mother lost so long.

I will obey, not willingly alone,

But gladly, as the precept were her own:

And, while that face renews my filial grief,

Fancy shall weave a charm for my relief,

Shall steep me in Elysian reverie,

A momentary dream, that thou art she.

My mother! when I learn'd that thou wast dead,

Say, wast thou conscious of the tears I shed?

Hover'd thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son,
Wretch even then, life's journey just begun?

Perhaps thou gav'st me, though unfelt, a kiss;

Perhaps a tear, if souls can weep in bliss—

Ah that maternal smile! it answers—Yes.

I heard the bell toll'd on thy burial day,

I saw the hearse, that bore thee slow away,
And, turning from my nurs'ry window,

drew

A long, long sigh, and wept a last adieu!
But was it such?—It was.—Where thou art gone,

Adieus and farewells are a sound unknown.

May I but meet thee on that peaceful shore,

The parting word shall pass my lips no more!

Thy maidens griev'd themselves at my concern,

Of gave me promise of a quick return.

What ardently I wish'd, I long believ'd,

And, disappointed still, was still deceiv'd.

By expectation ev'ry day beguil'd,

Dupe of to-morrow, even from a child.

Thus many a sad to-morrow came and went,

Till, all my stock of infant sorrow spent,
I learn'd at last submission to my lot,
But, though I less deplor'd thee, ne'er forgot.

Where once we dwelt our name is heard no more,

Children not thine have trod my nurs'ry floor;

And where the gard'ner Robin, day by day,

Drew me to school along the public way,
Delighted with my bauble coach, and wrapp'd

In scarlet mantle warm, and velvet cap,

'Tis now become a history little known,

That once we call'd the past'ral house our own.

Shortliv'd possession! but the record fair,
That mem'ry keeps of all thy kindness there,

Still outlives many a storm, that has effac'd

A thousand other themes less deeply trac'd.

Thy nightly visits to my chamber made,
That thou mightst know me safe and warmly laid;

Thy morning bounties ere I left my home,

The biscuit, or confectionary plum;

The fragrant waters on my cheeks bestow'd

By thy own hand, till fresh they shone and glow'd;

All this, and more endearing still than all,

Thy constant flow of love, that knew no fall,

Ne'er roughen'd by those cataracts and breaks,

That humour interpos'd too often makes;

All this still legible in mem'ry's page,

And still to be so to my latest age,

Adds joy to duty, makes me glad to pay
Such honors to thee as my numbers may;

Perhaps a frail memorial, but sincere,

Not scorn'd in Heav'n, though little notic'd here.

Could Time, his flight revers'd, restore the hours,

When, playing with thy vesture's tissu'd
 flow'rs,
 The violet, the pink, and jessamine,
 prick'd them into paper with a pin,
 And thou wast happier than myself the
 while,
 Wouldst softly speak, and stroke my head,
 and smile)
 Could those few pleasant days again ap-
 pear,
 Might one wish bring them, would I wish
 them here?
 I would not trust my heart—the dear
 delight
 Seems so to be desir'd, perhaps I might.—
 But no—what here we call our life is such,
 So little to be lov'd, and thou so much,
 That I should ill requite thee to constrain
 Thy unbound spirit into bonds again.

Thou, as a gallant bark from Albion's
 coast
 (The storms all weather'd and the ocean
 cross'd)
 Shoots into port at some well-haven'd
 isle,
 Where spices breathe, and brighter sea-
 sons smile,
 There sits quiescent on the floods, that
 show
 Her beauteous form reflected clear below,
 While airs impregnated with incense play
 Around her, fanning light her streamers
 gay;
 So thou, with sails how swift! hast reach'd
 the shore,
 "Where tempests never beat nor billows
 roar,"
 And thy lov'd consort on the dang'rous
 tide
 Of life long since has anchor'd by thy
 side.
 But me, scarce hoping to attain that rest,
 Always from port withheld, always dis-
 tress'd—
 Me howling blasts drive devious, tempest-
 toss'd,
 Sails ripp'd, seams op'ning wide, and
 compass lost,
 And day by day some current's thwarting
 force
 Sets me more distant from a prosp'rous
 course.

Yet O the thought, that thou art safe, and
 he!
 That thought is joy, arrive what may to
 me.
 My boast is not, that I deduce my birth
 From loins enthron'd, and rulers of the
 earth,
 But higher far my proud pretensions
 rise—
 The son of parents pass'd into the skies.
 And now, farewell—Time unrevok'd has
 run
 His wonted course, yet what I wish'd is
 done,
 By contemplation's help, not sought in
 vain,
 I seem t' have liv'd my childhood o'er
 again;
 To have renew'd the joys that once were
 mine,
 Without the sin of violating thine;
 And, while the wings of Fancy still are
 free,
 And I can view this mimic show of thee,
 Time has but half succeeded in his
 theft—
 Thyself remov'd, thy pow'r to soothe me
 left.

FREE IN THE TRUTH.

HE is the freeman, whom the truth
 makes free,
 And all are slaves beside. There's not a
 chain,
 That hellish foes, confederate for his
 harm,
 Can wind around him, but he casts it off
 With as much ease as Samson his green
 withes.
 He looks abroad into the varied field
 Of nature, and, though poor, perhaps,
 compared
 With those whose mansions glitter in his
 sight,
 Calls the delightful scenery all his own.
 His are the mountains, and the valleys
 his,
 And the resplendent rivers. His to
 enjoy
 With a propriety that none can feel,
 But who, with filial confidence inspired,

Can lift to Heaven an unpresumptuous
eye,
And smiling say—"My Father made
them all."

THE PLAY-GROUND.

BE it a weakness, it deserves some
praise,
We love the play-place of our early days;
The scene is touching, and the heart is
stone
That feels not at that sight, and feels at
none.
The wall on which we tried our graving
skill,
The very name we carved subsisting still;
The bench on which we sat while deep
employ'd,
Though mangled, hack'd, and hew'd, not
yet destroy'd;
The little ones unbutton'd, glowing hot,
Playing our games, and on the very
spot;
As happy as we once, to kneel and draw
The chalky ring, and knuckle down at
taw;
To pitch the ball into the grounded hat,
Or drive it devious with a dexterous pat;
The pleasing spectacle at once excites
Such recollection of our own delights,
That, viewing it, we seem almost to ob-
tain
Our innocent sweet simple years again.

BOADICEA.

WHEN the British warrior queen,
Bleeding from the Roman rods,
Sought, with an indignant mien,
Counsel of her country's gods,

Sage beneath the spreading oak
Sat the Druid, hoary chief;
Every burning word he spoke
Full of rage, and full of grief.

"Princess! if our aged eyes
Weep upon thy matchless wrongs,
Tis because resentment ties
All the terrors of our tongues.

"Rome shall perish—write that word
In the blood that she has spilt;
Perish, hopeless and abhorr'd,
Deep in ruin as in guilt.

"Rome, for empire far renown'd,
Tramples on a thousand states;
Soon her pride shall kiss the ground—
Hark! the Gaul is at her gates!

"Other Romans shall arise,
Heedless of a soldier's name;
Sounds, not arms, shall win the prize,
Harmony the path to fame.

"Then the progeny that springs
From the forests of our land,
Arm'd with thunder, clad with wings,
Shall a wider world command.

"Regions Cæsar never knew
Thy posterity shall sway;
Where his eagles never flew,
None invincible as they."

Such the bard's prophetic words,
Pregnant with celestial fire,
Bending as he swept the chords
Of his sweet but awful lyre.

She, with all a monarch's pride,
Felt them in her bosom glow;
Rush'd to battle, fought, and died;
Dying hurl'd them at the foe.

"Ruffians, pitiless as proud,
Heaven awards the vengeance due;
Empire is on us bestow'd,
Shame and ruin wait for you."

ALEXANDER SELKIRK.

I AM monarch of all I survey,
My right there is none to dispute;
From the centre all round to the sea
I am lord of the fowl and the brute.
O Solitude, where are the charms
That sages have seen in thy face?
Better dwell in the midst of alarms
Than reign in this horrible place.

I am out of humanity's reach ;
 I must finish my journey alone ;
 Never hear the sweet music of speech—
 I start at the sound of my own.
 The beasts that roam over the plain
 My form with indifference see ;
 They are so unacquainted with men,
 Their tameness is shocking to me.

Society, friendship, and love,
 Divinely bestow'd upon man,
 O had I the wings of a dove,
 How soon would I taste you again !
 My sorrows I then might assuage
 In the ways of religion and truth ;
 Might learn from the wisdom of age,
 And be cheer'd by the sallies of youth.

Religion ! what treasure untold
 Resides in that heavenly word !
 More precious than silver and gold,
 Or all that this earth can afford.
 But the sound of the church-going bell
 These valleys and rocks never heard—
 Never sigh'd at the sound of a knell,
 Or smiled when a Sabbath appear'd.

Ye winds that have made me your sport,
 Convey to this desolate shore
 Some cordial endearing report
 Of a land I shall visit no more.
 My friends, do they now and then send
 A wish or a thought after me ?
 O tell me I yet have a friend,
 Though a friend I am never to see.

How fleet is a glance of the mind !
 Compared with the speed of its flight,
 The tempest itself lags behind,
 And the swift-winged arrows of light.
 When I think of my own native land,
 In a moment I seem to be there ;
 But, alas ! recollection at hand
 Soon hurries me back to despair.

But the sea-fowl is gone to her nest ;
 The beast is laid down in his lair ;
 Even here is a season of rest,
 And I to my cabin repair.
 There's mercy in every place ;
 And mercy, encouraging thought !
 Gives even affliction a grace,
 And reconciles man to his lot.

THE DOVES.

REAS'NING at every step he treads,
 Man yet mistakes his way,
 While meaner things, whom instinct
 leads,
 Are rarely known to stray.

One silent eve I wander'd late,
 And heard the voice of love ;
 The turtle thus address'd her mate,
 And sooth'd the list'ning dove :

Our mutual bond of faith and truth,
 No time shall disengage,
 Those blessings of our early youth,
 Shall cheer our latest age.

While innocence without disguise,
 And constancy sincere,
 Shall fill the circles of those eyes,
 And mine can read them there ;

Those ills that wait on all below,
 Shall ne'er be felt by me,
 Or gently felt, and only so,
 As being shared with thee.

When lightnings flash among the trees,
 Or kites are hov'ring near,
 I fear lest thee alone they seize,
 And know no other fear.

'Tis then I feel myself a wife,
 And press thy wedded side,
 Resolved an union form'd for life.
 Death never shall divide.

But oh ! if fickle and unchaste
 (Forgive a transient thought)
 Thou couldst become unkind at last,
 And scorn thy present lot,

No need of lightnings from on high,
 Or kites with cruel beak,
 Denied th' endearments of thine eye
 This widow'd heart would break.

Thus sang the sweet sequester'd bird,
 Soft as the passing wind,
 And I recorded what I heard,
 A lesson for mankind.

SELFISHNESS.

OH, if the selfish knew how much they
lost,
What would they not endeavour, not
endure,
To imitate as far as in them lay
Him who his wisdom and his power
employs
In making others happy?

[GEORGE CRABBE. 1754—1832.]

THE DYING SAILOR.

HE call'd his friend, and prefaced with a
sigh
A lover's message—"Thomas, I must
die:
Would I could see my Sally, and could
rest
My throbbing temples on her faithful
breast,
And gazing, go!—if not, this trifle
take,
And say, till death I wore it for her
sake;
Yes! I must die—blow on sweet breeze,
blow on!
Give me one look, before my life be gone,
Oh! give me that, and let me not
despair,
One last fond look—and now repeat the
prayer."

He had his wish, had more; I will not
paint
The lovers' meeting: she beheld him
faint,—
With tender fears, she took a nearer
view,
Her terrors doubling as her hopes with-
drew;
He tried to smile, and, half succeeding,
said,
"Yes! I must die;" and hope for ever
fled.

Still long she nursed him; tender
thoughts, meantime,

Were interchanged, and hopes and views
sublime.
To her he came to die, and every
day
She took some portion of the dread
away:
With him she pray'd, to him his Bible
read,
Soothed the faint heart, and held the
aching head;
She came with smiles the hour of pain to
cheer;
Apart, she sigh'd; alone, she shed the
tear;
Then, as if breaking from a cloud, she
gave
Fresh light, and gilt the prospect of the
grave.

One day he lighter seem'd, and they for-
got
The care, the dread, the anguish of their
lot;
They spoke with cheerfulness, and seem'd
to think,
Yet said not so—"perhaps he will not
sink:"
A sudden brightness in his look ap-
pear'd,
A sudden vigour in his voice was
heard;—
She had been reading in the book of
prayer,
And led him forth, and placed him in his
chair;
Lively he seem'd, and spoke of all he
knew,
The friendly many, and the favourite
few;
Nor one that day did he to mind
recall,
But she has treasured, and she loves
them all;
When in her way she meets them, they
appear
Peculiar people—death has made them
dear.
He named his friend, but then his hand
she prest,
And fondly whisper'd, "Thou must go to
rest;"
"I go," he said; but, as he spoke, she
found

His hand more cold, and fluttering was
the sound !
Then gazed affrighten'd ; but she caught
a last,
A dying look of love, and all was past !

~~~~~  
[JAMES MONTGOMERY. 1771—1854.]

### ASPIRATIONS OF YOUTH.

HIGHER, higher will we climb  
Up the mount of glory,  
That our names may live through time  
In our country's story ;  
Happy, when her welfare calls,  
He who conquers, he who falls.

Deeper, deeper let us toil  
In the mines of knowledge ;  
Nature's wealth and Learning's spoil  
Win from school and college ;  
Delve we there for richer gems  
Than the stars of diadems.

Onward, onward may we press  
Through the path of duty ;  
Virtue is true happiness,  
Excellence true beauty :  
Minds are of celestial birth,  
Make we then a heaven of earth.

Closer, closer let us knit  
Hearts and hands together,  
Where our fireside-comforts sit  
In the wildest weather ;—  
O, they wander wide who roam  
For the joys of life from home !

### ~~~~~ HOME.

THERE is a land, of every land the  
pride,  
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world  
beside ;  
Where brighter suns dispense serener  
light,  
And milder moons emparadise the night ;  
A land of beauty, virtue, valour, truth,  
Time-tutored age, and love-exalted youth :

The wandering mariner, whose eye ex-  
plores  
The wealthiest isles, the most enchanting  
shores,  
Views not a realm so bountiful and fair,  
Nor breathes the spirit of a purer air ;  
In every clime the magnet of his soul,  
Touched by remembrance, trembles to  
that pole ;  
For in this land of Heaven's peculiar  
grace,  
The heritage of nature's noblest race,  
There is a spot of earth supremely blest,  
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest,  
Where man, creation's tyrant, casts aside  
His sword and sceptre, pageantry and  
pride,  
While in his softened looks benignly  
blend  
The sire, the son, the husband, brother,  
friend ;  
Here woman reigns ; the mother, daugh-  
ter, wife,  
Strew with fresh flowers the narrow way  
of life !  
In the clear heaven of her delightful eye,  
An angel-guard of loves and graces lie ;  
Around her knees domestic duties meet,  
And fireside pleasures gambol at her feet.  
Where shall that land, that spot of earth  
be found !  
Art thou a man ?—a patriot ?—look  
around ;  
O, thou shalt find, howe'er thy footsteps  
roam,  
That land thy country, and that spot thy  
Home.

### ~~~~~ ICE-BLINK AND AURORA BOREALIS.

'TIS sunset : to the firmament serene  
The Atlantic wave reflects a gorgeous  
scene :  
Broad in the cloudless west, a belt of gold  
Girds the blue hemisphere ; above un-  
roll'd  
The keen clear air grows palpable to  
sight,  
Embodied in a flush of crimson light,  
Through which the evening star, with  
milder gleam,

Descends to meet her image in the stream.  
Far in the east, what spectacle unknown  
Allures the eye to gaze on it alone ?

—Amidst black rocks that lift on either  
hand

Their countless peaks, and mark receding  
land ;

Amidst a tortuous labyrinth of seas,  
That shine around the arctic Cyclades ;  
Amidst a coast of dreariest continent,  
In many a shapeless promontory rent ;

—O'er rocks, seas, islands, promontories  
spread,

The Ice-Blink rears its undulated head,  
On which the sun, beyond th' horizon  
shrined,

It hath left his richest garniture behind ;  
Piled on a hundred arches, ridge by ridge,  
O'er fix'd and fluid strides the Alpine  
bridge,

Whose blocks of sapphire seem to mortal  
eye

Hewn from cerulean quarries of the sky ;  
With glacier-battlements, that crowd the  
spheres,

The slow creation of six thousand years,  
Amidst immensity it towers sublime,  
—Winter's eternal palace, built by Time :  
All human structures by his touch are  
borne

Down to the dust ;—mountains themselves  
are worn

With his light footsteps ; here forever  
grows,

Amid the region of unmelting snows,  
A monument ; where every flake that  
falls

Gives adamantine firmness to the walls.  
The sun beholds no mirror in his race,  
That shews a brighter image of his face ;  
The stars, in their nocturnal vigils, rest  
Like signal fires on its illumined crest ;  
The gliding moon around the ramparts  
wheels,

And all its magic lights and shades reveals ;  
Beneath, the tide with idle fury raves  
To undermine it through a thousand  
caves ;

Rent from its roof, though thundering  
fragments oft

Plunge to the gulph, immoveable aloft,  
From age to age, in air, o'er sea, on land,  
Its turrets heighten and its piers expand.

Midnight hath told his hour ; the moon,  
yet young,

Hangs in the argent west her bow un-  
strung ;

Larger and fairer, as her lustre fades,  
Sparkle the stars amidst the deepening  
shades ;

Jewels more rich than night's regalia gem  
The distant Ice-Blink's spangled diadem ;  
Like a new morn from orient darkness,  
there

Phosphoric splendours kindle in mid air,  
As though from heaven's self-opening  
portals came

Legions of spirits in an orb of flame,  
—Flame, that from every point an arrow  
sends,

Far as the concave firmament extends :  
Spun with the tissue of a million lines,  
Glistening like gossamer the welkin  
shines :

The constellations in their pride look pale  
Through the quick trembling brilliance  
of that veil :

Then suddenly converged, the meteors  
rush

O'er the wide south ; one deep vermilion  
blush

O'erspreads Orion glaring on the flood,  
And rabid Sirius foams through fire and  
blood ;

Again the circuit of the pole they range,  
Motion and figure every moment change,  
Through all the colours of the rainbow  
run,

Or blaze like wrecks of a dissolving sun ;  
Wide ether burns with glory, conflict,  
flight,

And the glad ocean dances in the light.

## RELIGION.

THROUGH shades and solitudes profound,  
The fainting traveller wends his way ;  
Bewildering meteors glare around,  
And tempt his wandering feet astray.

Welcome, thrice welcome to his eye,  
The sudden moon's inspiring light,  
When forth she sallies through the sky,  
The guardian angel of the night.

Thus, mortals blind and weak below,  
Pursue the phantom bliss in vain ;  
The world's a wilderness of wo,  
And life's a pilgrimage of pain !

Till mild Religion from above  
Descends, a sweet engaging form,  
The messenger of heavenly love,  
The bow of promise 'mid the storm.

Ambition, pride, revenge, depart,  
And folly flies her chastening rod ;  
She makes the humble, contrite heart  
A temple of the living God.

Beyond the narrow vale of time,  
Where bright celestial ages roll,  
To scenes eternal, scenes sublime,  
She points the way and leads the soul.

At her approach, the grave appears  
The gate of paradise restored ;  
Her voice the watching cherub hears,  
And drops his double flaming sword.

Baptized with her renewing fire,  
May we the crown of glory gain ;  
Rise when the hosts of heaven expire,  
And reign with God, forever reign !

#### WINTER LIGHTNING.

THE flash at midnight !—'twas a light  
That gave the blind a moment's sight,  
Then sank in tenfold gloom ;  
Loud, deep, and long, the thunder broke,  
The deaf ear instantly awoke,  
Then closed as in the tomb :  
An angel might have passed my bed,  
Sounded the trump of God, and fled.

So life appears ;—a sudden birth,  
A glance revealing heaven and earth ,  
It *is*—and it is *not* !  
So fame the poet's hope deceives,  
Who sings for after time, and leaves  
A name—to be forgot.  
Life—is a lightning-flash of breath ;  
Fame— but a thunder clap at death.

#### LIFE.

LIFE is the transmigration of a soul  
Through various bodies, various states of  
being ;  
New manners, passions, new pursuits in  
each ;  
In nothing, save in consciousness, the  
same.  
Infancy, adolescence, manhood, age,  
Are alway moving onward, alway losing  
Themselves in one another, lost at  
length  
Like undulations on the strand of death.

\* \* \* \* \*

The child !—we know no more of happy  
childhood,  
Than happy childhood knows of wretched  
eld ;  
And all our dreams of its felicity  
Are incoherent as its own crude visions :  
We but begin to live from that fine  
point  
Which memory dwells on, with the morn-  
ing star :  
The earliest note we heard the cuckoo  
sing,  
Or the first daisy that we ever plucked ;  
When thoughts themselves were stars, and  
birds, and flowers,  
Pure brilliance, simplest music, wild per-  
fume.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then, the grey Elder !—leaning on his  
staff,  
And bowed beneath a weight of years,  
that steal  
Upon him with the secrecy of sleep  
(No snow falls lighter than the snow of  
age.  
None with such subtlety benumbs the  
frame),  
Till he forgets sensation, and lies down  
Dead in the lap of his primeval mother.  
She throws a shroud of turf and flowers  
around him,  
Then calls the worms, and bids them do  
their office ;  
—Man giveth up the ghost—and where  
is he ?

[ROBERT BURNS. 1759—1796.]

ONE FOND KISS AND THEN  
WE SEVER.

ONE fond kiss, and then we sever !  
One farewell, and then for ever !  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge  
thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

Who shall say that Fortune grieves him,  
While the star of Hope she leaves him ?  
Me, no cheerful twinkle lights me ;  
Dark despair around benights me.

I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy,  
Nothing could resist my Nancy :  
But to see her was to love her ;  
Love but her, and love for ever.

Had we never loved so kindly,  
Had we never loved so blindly,  
Never met or never parted,  
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.

Fare thee well, thou first and fairest !  
Fare thee well, thou best and dearest !  
Thine be every joy and treasure,  
Peace, enjoyment, love, and pleasure !

One fond kiss, and then we sever !  
One farewell, alas, for ever !  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge  
thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.

OF A' THE AIRTS THE WIND  
CAN BLOW.

OF a' the airts the wind can blow,  
I dearly like the west,  
For there the bonnie lassie lives,  
The lassie I lo'e best :  
There wild woods grow, and rivers row,  
And mony a hill between ;  
But, day and night, my fancy's flight  
Is ever wi' my Jean.

I see her in the dewy flowers,  
I see her sweet and fair :  
I hear her in the tunefu' birds,  
I hear her charm the air :

There's not a bonnie flower that springs,  
By fountain, shaw, or green ;  
There's not a bonnie bird that sings,  
But minds me o' my Jean.

DOMESTIC HAPPINESS THE  
BEST.

To make a happy fire-side clime,  
To weans and wife—  
That's the true pathos, and sublime  
Of human life.

VIRTUOUS LOVE IN HUMBLE  
LIFE.

O HAPPY love ! where love like this is  
found !  
O heart-felt raptures ! bliss beyond  
compare !  
I've paced much this weary, mortal round,  
And sage experience bids me this  
declare—  
“ If Heav'n a draught of heav'nly plea-  
sure spare,  
One cordial in this melancholy vale,  
'Tis when a youthful, loving, modest  
pair,  
In other's arms breathe out the tender  
Beneath the milk-white thorn that scents  
the ev'ning gale ! ”

THE PEASANT'S EVENING  
PRAYER.

THE cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious  
face, [wide ;  
They, round the ingle, form a circle  
The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal grace,  
The big ha'-Bible, ance his father's  
pride :  
His bonnet rev'rently is laid aside,  
His lyart haffets\* wearing thin an'  
bare ;  
Those strains that once did sweet in Zion  
glide,  
He wales† a portion with judicious care ;  
And “ Let us worship God ! ” he says,  
with solemn air.

\* Grey locks.

† Chooses.



They chant their artless notes in simple guise :

They tune their hearts, by far the noblest aim :

Perhaps "Dundee's" wild warbling measures rise,

Or plaintive "Martyrs," worthy of the name ;

Or noble "Elgin" beets \* the heav'nward flame,

The sweetest far of Scotia's holy lays :

Compar'd with these, Italian trills are tame ;

The tickl'd ears no heart-felt raptures raise ;

Nae unison hae they with our Creator's praise.

The priest-like father reads the sacred page,

How Abram was the friend of God on high ;

Or Moses bade eternal warfare wage  
With Amalek's ungracious progeny ;

Or how the royal Bard did groaning lie  
Beneath the stroke of Heaven's avenging ire ;

Or Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing cry ;  
Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphic fire ;

Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is the theme,

How guiltless blood for guilty man was shed ;

How He, who bore in Heav'n the second name,

Had not on earth whereon to lay His head :

How His first followers and servants sped ;

The precepts sage they wrote to many a land :

How he, who lone in Patmos banished,  
Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand ;

And heard great Bablon's doom pronounced by Heav'n's command.

Then kneeling down, to Heav'n's Eternal King,

\* Beet—to add fuel.

The saint, the father, and the husband prays :

Hope "springs exulting on triumphant wing,"

That thus they all shall meet in future days :

There ever bask in uncreated rays,  
No more to sigh, or shed the bitter tear,

Together hymning their Creator's praise,  
In such society, yet still more dear ;

While circling time moves round in an eternal sphere.

Compar'd with this, how poor Religion's pride,

In all the pomp of method, and of art,  
When men display to congregations wide  
Devotion's ev'ry grace, except the heart !

The Pow'r, incens'd, the pageant will desert,

The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole ;

But haply, in some cottage far apart,  
May hear, well pleas'd, the language of the soul ;

And in His book of life the inmates poor enrol.

#### A PRAYER FOR SCOTLAND.

O SCOTIA ! my dear, my native soil :

For whom my warmest wish to Heav'n is sent !

Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil  
Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content !

And, oh, may Heav'n their simple lives prevent

From luxury's contagion, weak and vile !

Then, howe'er crowns and coronets be rent,

A virtuous populace may rise the while,

And stand a wall of fire around their much-lov'd Isle.

O Thou ! who pour'd the patriotic tide  
That stream'd thro' Wallace's undaunted heart ;

Who dar'd to nobly stem tyrannic pride,  
Or nobly die, the second glorious part,

(The patriot's God, peculiarly Thou art,

His friend, inspirer, guardian, and  
reward !)  
O never, never Scotia's realm desert ;  
But still the patriot, and the patriot-  
bard,  
In bright succession raise, her ornament  
and guard !

~~~~~

TO A MOUNTAIN DAISY,

ON TURNING ONE DOWN WITH THE
PLOUGH, IN APRIL, 1786.

WEE, modest, crimson-tipped flow'r,
Thou's met me in an evil hour ;
For I maun crush amang the stoure
Thy slender stem :
To spare thee now is past my pow'r,
Thou bonnie gem.

Alas ! it's no thy neebor sweet,
The bonnie Lark, companion meet !
Bending thee 'mang the dewy weet !
Wi' spreckl'd breast,
When upward-springing, blythe, to greet
The purpling east.

Cauld blew the bitter-biting north
Upon thy early, humble birth ;
Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth
Amid the storm,
Scarce rear'd above the parent-earth
Thy tender form.

The flaunting flow'rs our gardens yield,
High shelt'ring woods and wa's maun
shield,
But thou, beneath the random bield *
O' clod, or stane,
Adorns the histie † stibble-field,
Unseen, alane.

There, in thy scanty mantle clad,
Thy snawy bosom sunward spread,
Thou lifts thy unassuming head
In humble guise ;
But now the share uptears thy bed,
And low thou lies !

* Shelter.

† Dry.

Such is the fate of artless Maid,
Sweet flow'ret of the rural shade !
By love's simplicity betray'd,
And guileless trust,
Till she, like thee, all soild, is laid
Low i' the dust.

Such is the fate of simple Bard,
On life's rough ocean luckless starr'd !
Unskilful he to note the card
Of prudent lore,
Till billows rage, and gales blow hard,
And whelm him o'er !

Such fate to suffering worth is giv'n,
Who long with wants and woes has
striv'n,
By human pride or cunning driv'n
To mis'ry's brink,
Till, wrench'd of ev'ry stay but Heav'n,
He, ruin'd, sink !

Ev'n thou who mourn'st the Daisy's fate,
That fate is thine—no distant date ;
Stern Ruin's ploughshare drives, elate,
Full on thy bloom,
Till crush'd beneath the furrow's weight,
Shall be thy doom

~~~~~

TO RUIN.

ALL hail ! inexorable lord !  
At whose destruction-breathing word,  
The mightiest empires fall !  
Thy cruel, woe-delighted train,  
The ministers of grief and pain,  
A sullen welcome, all !  
With stern-resolv'd, despairing eye,  
I see each aimed dart ;  
For one has cut my dearest tie,  
And quivers in my heart.  
Then low'ring, and pouring,  
The storm no more I dread ;  
Tho' thick'ning and black'ning  
Round my devoted head.

And thou grim pow'r, by life abhorr'd,  
While life a pleasure can afford,  
Oh ! hear a wretch's pray'r !  
No more I shrink appall'd, afraid ;  
I court, I beg thy friendly aid,  
To close this scene of care !

When shall my soul, in silent peace,  
 Resign life's joyless day :  
 My weary heart its throbbing cease,  
 Cold mould'ring in the clay ?  
 No fear more, no tear more,  
 To stain my lifeless face,  
 Enclasp'd, and grasped  
 Within thy cold embrace !

### THE TRUE VALUE OF WEALTH.

To catch dame Fortune's golden smile,  
 Assiduous wait upon her ;  
 And gather gear by ev'ry wile  
 That's justify'd by honour ;  
 Not for to hide it in a hedge,  
 Nor for a train attendant ;  
 But for the glorious privilege  
 Of being independent.

### ADDRESS TO EDINBURGH.

EDINA ! Scotia's darling seat !  
 All hail thy palaces and tow'rs,  
 Where once beneath a monarch's feet  
 Sat Legislation's sov'reign pow'rs !  
 From marking wildly-scatter'd flow'rs,  
 As on the banks of Ayr I stray'd,  
 And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,  
 I shelter in thy honour'd shade.

Here wealth still swells the golden tide,  
 As busy Trade his labours plies ;  
 There Architecture's noble pride  
 Bids elegance and splendour rise ;  
 Here Justice, from her native skies,  
 High wields her balance and her rod ;  
 There Learning, with his eagle eyes,  
 Seeks Science in her coy abode.

Thy sons, Edina, social, kind,  
 With open arms the stranger hail ;  
 Their views enlarg'd, their lib'ral mind,  
 Above the narrow, rural vale ;  
 Attentive still to sorrow's wail,  
 Or modest merit's silent claim :  
 And never may their sources fail !  
 And never envy blot their name !

Thy daughters bright thy walks adorn,  
 Gay as the gilded summer sky,  
 Sweet as the dewy milk-white thorn,  
 Dear as the raptur'd thrill of joy !  
 Fair Burnet \* strikes th' adoring eye,  
 Heav'n's beauties on my fancy shine ;  
 I see the Sire of Love on high,  
 And own His work indeed divine !

There watching high the least alarms,  
 Thy rough-rude fortress gleams afar :  
 Like some bold vet'ran, gray in arms,  
 And mark'd with many a seamy  
 scar :  
 The pond'rous wall and massy bar,  
 Grim-rising o'er the rugged rock,  
 Have oft withstood assailing war,  
 And oft repell'd th' invader's shock.

With awe-struck thought, and pitying  
 tears,  
 I view that noble, stately dome,  
 Where Scotia's kings of other years,  
 Fam'd heroes, had their royal home :  
 Alas, how chang'd the times to come !  
 Their royal name low in the dust !  
 Their hapless race wild-wand'ring roam !  
 Tho' rigid law cries out, 'twas just !

Wild beats my heart, to trace your  
 steps,  
 Whose ancestors, in days of yore,  
 Thro' hostile ranks and ruin'd gaps  
 Old Scotia's bloody lion bore :  
 Ev'n I who sing in rustic lore,  
 Haply my sires have left their shed,  
 And fac'd grim danger's loudest roar,  
 Bold-following where your fathers led !

Edina ! Scotia's darling seat !  
 All hail thy palaces and tow'rs,  
 Where once beneath a monarch's feet  
 Sat Legislation's sov'reign pow'rs !  
 From marking wildly-scatter'd flow'rs,  
 As on the banks of Ayr I stray'd,  
 And singing, lone, the ling'ring hours,  
 I shelter in thy honour'd shade.

\* Daughter of Lord Monboddo. Burns said there had not been anything like her in beauty, grace, and goodness, since Eve on the first day of her existence.

## EVANESCENT PLEASURES.

*Tam O'Shanter.* \* †

BUT pleasures are like poppies spread,  
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed;  
Or like the snowfall in the river,  
A moment white—then melts for ever;  
Or like the borealis race,  
That flit ere you can point their place;  
Or like the rainbow's lovely form  
Evanishing amid the storm.

~~~~~

ON THE BIRTH OF A POSTHUMOUS CHILD, BORN IN PECULIAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF FAMILY DISTRESS.

SWEET floweret, pledge o' meikle love,
And ward o' mony a prayer,
What heart o' stane wad thou na move,
Sae helpless, sweet, and fair.

November hirkles * o'er the lea,
Chill on thy lovely form;
And gane, alas! the shelt'ring tree
Should shield thee frae the storm.

May He, who gives the rain to pour,
And wings the blast to blow,
Protect thee frae the driving show'r,
The bitter frost and snaw.

May He, the friend of woe and want,
Who heals life's various stounds, †
Protect and guard the mother plant,
And heal her cruel wounds.

But late she flourish'd, rooted fast,
Fair on the summer morn:
Now, feebly bends she in the blast,
Unshelter'd and forlorn.

Blest be thy bloom, thou lovely gem
Unscathed by ruffian hand!
And from thee many a parent stem
Arise to deck our land!

* Creeps.

† Heart-pangs.

TO A MOUSE,

ON TURNING HER UP IN HER NEST WITH THE PLOUGH IN NOVEMBER.

WEE, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie,
O, what a panic's in thy breastie!
Thou need na start awa sae hasty,
Wi' bickering brattle! *
I wad be laith † to rin an' chase thee,
Wi' murdering pattle! ‡

I'm truly sorry man's dominion
Has broken nature's social union,
An' justifies that ill opinion,
Which makes thee startle
At me, thy poor earth-born companion,
An' fellow mortal!

I doubt na, whyles, but thou may thieve;
What then? poor beastie, thou maun live!
A daimen-icker § in a thrave ||
'S a sma' request:
I'll get a blessin wi' the lave, ¶
And never miss't.

Thy wee bit housie too, in ruin!
Its silly wa's the winds are strewn!
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,
O' foggage green!
An' bleak December's winds ensuin,
Baith snell ** and keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,
An' weary winter comin fast,
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,
Thou thought to dwell,
Till crash! the cruel coultter pass'd
Out thro' thy cell.

That wee bit heap o' leaves an' stibble,
Has cost thee mony a weary nibble!
Now thou's turn'd out, for a' thy trouble,
But house or hald,
To thole the winter's sleety dribble,
An' cranreuch †† cauld!

But, mousie, thou art no thy lane, ‡‡
In proving foresight may be vain:

* Hurry. † Loth. ‡ Plough staff. § Ear of corn. || Twenty-four sheaves. ¶ The rest.
** Bitung. †† Hoar frost. ‡‡ Thyself alone.

The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
 Gang aft a-gley,*
 An' leave us nought but grief and pain,
 For promised joy.

Still thou art blest, compared wi' me!
 The present only toucheth thee;
 But, och! I backward cast my e'e
 On prospects drear!
 An' forward, tho' I canna see,
 I guess an' fear.

~~~~~

LAMENT OF MARY, QUEEN OF  
 SCOTS, ON THE APPROACH  
 OF SPRING.

Now nature hangs her mantle green  
 On every blooming tree,  
 And spreads her sheets o' daisies white  
 Out o'er the grassy lea:  
 Now Phoebus cheers the crystal streams,  
 And glads the azure skies;  
 But nought can glad the weary wight:  
 That fast in durance lies.

Now lay'ricks wake the merry morn,  
 Aloft on dewy wing;  
 The merle, in his noontide bow'r,  
 Makes woodland echoes ring;  
 The mavis mild wi' many a note,  
 Sings drowsy day to rest:  
 In love and freedom they rejoice,  
 Wi' care nor thrall opprest.

Now blooms the lily by the bank,  
 The primrose down the brae;  
 The hawthorn's budding in the glen,  
 And milk-white is the slae;  
 The meanest hind in fair Scotland  
 May rove their sweets amang;  
 But I, the Queen of a' Scotland,  
 Maun lie in prison strang.

I was the Queen o' bonnie France,  
 Where happy I hae been;  
 Fu' lightly rase I in the morn,  
 As blythe lay down at e'en:

\* Wrong.

And I'm the sovereign of Scotland,  
 And monie a traitor there;  
 Yet here I lie in foreign bands,  
 And never ending care.

My son! my son! may kinder stars  
 Upon thy fortune shine;  
 And may those pleasures gild thy reign,  
 That ne'er wad blink on mine!  
 God keep thee frae thy mother's faes,  
 Or turn their hearts to thee:  
 And where thou meet'st thy mother's  
 friend  
 Remember him for me!

Oh! soon, to me, may summer suns  
 Nae mair light up the morn!  
 Nae mair, to me, the autumn winds  
 Wave o'er the yellow corn!  
 And in the narrow house o' death  
 Let winter round me rave;  
 And the next flowers that deck the spring  
 Bloom on my peaceful grave!

~~~~~

THE BARD'S EPITAPH.

Is there a whim-inspired fool,
 Owre fast for thought, owre hot for rule,
 Owre blate to seek, owre proud to snool,
 Let him draw near;
 And owre this grassy heap sing dool,
 And drap a tear.

Is there a Bard of rustic song,
 Who, noteless, steals the crowds among.
 That weekly this area throng,
 O, pass not by!
 But, with a frater-feeling strong,
 Here, heave a sigh.

Is there a man whose judgment clear,
 Can others teach the course to steer,
 Yet runs, himself, life's mad career
 Wild as the wave;
 Here pause—and, thro' the starting tear,
 Survey this grave.

The poor Inhabitant below
 Was quick to learn, and wise to know,
 And keenly felt the friendly glow,
 And softer flame;
 But thoughtless follies laid him low,
 And stain'd his name!

Reader, attend—whether thy soul
Soars fancy's flights beyond the pole,
Or darkling grubs this earthly hole,

In low pursuit ;
Know, prudent, cautious, *self-control*
Is wisdom's root.

TO MARY IN HEAVEN.

THOU ling'ring star, with less'ning ray,
That lov'st to greet the early morn,
Again thou usher'st in the day

My Mary from my soul was torn.
O Mary! dear departed shade!

Where is thy place of blissful rest ?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?

Hear'st thou the groans that rend his
breast?

That sacred hour can I forget,
Can I forget the hallow'd grove,
Where by the winding Ayr we met,
To live one day of parting love?
Eternity will not efface.

Those records dear of transports past;
Thy image at our last embrace;
Ah! little thought we 'twas our last!

Ayr gurgling kiss'd his pebbled shore,
O'erhung with wild woods, thick'ning
green;

The fragrant birch, and hawthorn hoar,
Twined amorous round the raptured
scene.

The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on ev'ry spray,—
Till too, too soon, the glowing west
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day.

Still o'er these scenes my memory wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care!
Time but th' impression deeper makes
As streams their channels deeper
wear.

My Mary, dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?

Hear'st thou the groans that rend his
breast?

BANNOCKBURN.

ROBERT BRUCE'S ADDRESS TO HIS ARMY

SCOTS, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led;
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victory!

Now's the day, and now's the hour;
See the front o' battle lower:
See approach proud Edward's pow'r—
Chains and slavery!

Wha will be a traitor knave?
Wha would fill a coward's grave?
Wha sae base as be a slave?
Let him turn and flee!

Wha for Scotland's King and law
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,
Free-man stand, or free-man fa'?
Let him on wi' me!

By Oppression's woes and pains!
By your sons in servile chains!
We will drain our dearest veins,
But they shall be free!

Lay the proud usurpers low!
Tyrants fall in every foe!
Liberty's in every blow!
Let us do, or die!

FOR A' THAT, AND A' THAT.

Is there, for honest poverty,
That hangs his head, and a' that?
The coward-slave, we pass him by,
And dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Our toils obscure, and a' that;
The rank is but the guinea stamp;
The man's the gowd for a' that.

What tho' on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddie-grey, and a' that;
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine,
A man's a man, for a' that.
For a' that, and a' that,
Their tinsel show, and a' that.
The honest man, tho' ne'er sae poor,
Is King o' men for a' that.

Ye see yon birkie, ca'd a lord,
Wha struts, and stares, and a' that;
Tho' hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a coof for a' that:
For a' that, and a' that,
His riband, star, and a' that,
The man, of independent mind,
He looks and laughs at a' that.

A king can mak a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, and a' that;
But an honest man's aboon his might,
Guid faith, he maunna fa' that!
For a' that, and a' that,
Their dignities, and a' that,
The pith o' sense, and pride o' worth,
Are higher ranks than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,
May bear the gree, and a' that;
For a' that, and a' that,
It's coming yet, for a' that;
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.

THE SOLDIER.

FOR gold the merchant ploughs the mair,
The farmer ploughs the manor;
But glory is the soldier's prize;
The soldier's wealth is honour:
The brave poor soldier ne'er despise,
Nor count him as a stranger,
Remember he's his country's stay
In day and hour o' danger.

O WERE MY LOVE YON LILAC FAIR.

O WERE my love yon lilac fair,
Wi' purple blossoms to the spring;
And I a bird to shelter there,
When wearied on my little wing:

How I wad mourn, when it was torn
By autumn wild, and winter rude!
But I wad sing on wanton wing,
When youthfu' May its bloom renew'd.

O gin my love were yon red rose
That grows upon the castle wa',
And I mysel' a drap o' dew,
Into her bonnie breast to fa'!

Oh! there beyond expression blest,
I'd feast on beauty a' the night;
Seal'd on her silk-soft faulds to rest,
Till fley'd awa' by Phoebus' light.

A ROSE-BUD BY MY EARLY WALK.

A ROSE-BUD by my early walk,
Adown a corn-enclosed baw,
Sae gently bent its thorny stalk,
All on a dewy morning.

Ere twice the shades o' dawn are fled,
In a' its crimson glory spread,
And drooping rich the dewy head,
It scents the early morning.

Within the bush, her covert nest
A little linnet fondly prest,
The dew sat chilly on her breast
Sae early in the morning.

She soon shall see her tender brood,
The pride, the pleasure o' the wood,
Among the fresh green leaves bedew'd,
Awake the early morning.

So thou, dear bird, young Jeany fair,
On trembling string, or vocal air,
Shalt sweetly pay the tender care
That tents thy early morning.

So thou, sweet rose-bud, young and gay,
Shalt beauteous blaze upon the day,
And bless the parent's evening ray
That watch'd thy early morning.

LOVE'S DESPAIR.

ALTHO' thou maun never be mine,
Altho' even hope is denied;
'Tis sweeter for thee despairing,
Than aught in the world beside—*Jessy!*

MY AIN KIND DEARIE, O!

WHEN o'er the hill the eastern star
Tells bughtin-time is near, my jo;
And owsen frae the furrow'd field
Return sae dowf and wearie, O!
Down by the burn, where scented birks
Wi' dew are hanging clear, my jo,
I'll meet thee on the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O!

In mirkest glen, at midnight hour,
I'd rove, and ne'er be eerie, O,
If thro' that glen I gaed to thee,
My ain kind dearie, O!
Altho' the night were ne'er sae wild,
And I were ne'er sae wearie, O,
I'd meet thee on the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O!

The hunter lo'es the morning sun,
To rouse the mountain deer, my jo,
At noon the fisher seeks the glen,
Along the burn to steer, my jo;
Gie me the hour o' gloamin' grey,
It maks my heart sae cheery, O,
To meet thee on the lea-rig,
My ain kind dearie, O!

~~~~~

THE MUSE OF SCOTLAND TO  
ROBERT BURNS.

"ALL hail! my own inspired Bard  
In me thy native Muse regard!  
Nor longer mourn thy fate is hard,  
Thus poorly low!  
I come to give thee such reward  
As we bestow.

"Know, the great Genius of this land  
Has many a light, aërial band,  
Who, all beneath his high command,  
Harmoniously,  
As Arts or Arms they understand,  
Their labours ply.

"They Scotia's Race among them share;  
Some fire the Soldier on to dare:  
Some rouse the Patriot up to bare  
Corruption's heart:  
Some teach the Bard, a darling care,  
The tuneful art.

"'Mong swelling floods of reeking gore,  
They, ardent, kindling spirits pour;  
Or, 'mid the venal Senate's roar,  
They, sightless, stand,  
To mend the honest Patriot-lore,  
And grace the hand.

"And when the Bard, or hoary Sage,  
Charm or instruct the future age,  
They bind the wild, Poetic rage  
In energy,  
Or point the inconclusive page  
Full on the eye.

"Hence, Fullarton, the brave and young  
Hence, Dempster's zeal-inspired tongue;  
Hence, sweet harmonious Beattie sung  
His 'Minstrel lays';  
Or tore, with noble ardour stung,  
The Sceptic's bays.

"To lower orders are assign'd  
The humbler ranks of human-kind,  
The rustic Bard, the laboring Hind,  
The Artisan:  
All chuse, as various they're inclined,  
The various man.

"When yellow waves the heavy grain,  
The threat'ning storm some, strongly  
rein;  
Some teach to meliorate the plain  
With tillage-skill;  
And some instruct the Shepherd-train,  
Blythe o'er the hill.

"Some hint the Lover's harmless wile;  
Some grace the Maiden's artless smile;  
Some soothe the Laborer's weary toil,  
For humble gains,  
And make his cottage-scenes beguile  
His cares and pains.

"Some, bounded to a district-space,  
Explore at large Man's infant race,  
To mark the embryotic trace  
Of rustic Bard;  
And careful note each op'ning grace,  
A guide and guard.

"Of these am I—Coila my name;  
And this district as mine I claim,  
Where once the Campbells, ch  
fame,



Held ruling pow'r :  
I mark'd thy embryo-tuneful flame,  
Thy natal hour.

"With future hope, I oft would gaze,  
Fond, on thy little early ways,  
Thy rudely-caroll'd, chiming phrase,  
In uncouth rhymes,  
Fired at the simple, artless lays  
Of other times.

"I saw thee seek the sounding shore,  
Delighted with the dashing roar;  
Or when the North his fleecy store  
Drove thro' the skv,  
I saw grim Nature's visage hoar,  
Struck thy young eye.

"Or when the deep green-mantled Earth  
Warm-cherish'd ev'ry floweret's birth,  
And joy and music pouring forth  
In ev'ry grove,  
I saw thee eye the general mirth  
With boundless love.

"When ripen'd fields, and azure skies,  
Call'd forth the Reaper's rustling noise,  
I saw thee leave their evening joys,  
And lonely stalk,  
To vent thy bosom's swelling rise  
In pensive walk.

"When youthful Love, warm-blushing  
strong,  
Keen-shivering shot thy nerves along,  
Those accents, grateful to thy tongue,  
Th' adored Name,  
I taught thee how to pour in song,  
To soothe thy flame.

"I saw thy pulse's maddening play,  
Wild send thee Pleasure's devious way,  
Misled by Fancy's meteor ray,  
By Passion driven;  
But yet the light that led astray,  
Was light from Heaven.

"I taught thy manners-painting strains,  
The loves, the ways of simple swains,  
Till now, o'er all my wide domains  
Thy fame extends;  
And some, the pride of Coila's plains,  
Become thy friends.

"Thou canst not learn, nor can I show,  
To paint with Thomson's landscape glow;  
Or wake the bosom-melting throe,  
With Shenstone's art;  
Or pour, with Gray, the moving flow  
Warm on the heart.

"Yet, all beneath th' univall'd rose,  
The lowly daisy sweetly blows;  
Tho' large the forest's monarch throws  
His army shade,  
Yet green the juicy hawthorn grows,  
Adown the glade.

"Then never murmur nor repine;  
Strive in thy humble sphere to shine;  
And trust me, not Potosi's mine,  
Nor King's regard,  
Can give a bliss o'ermatching thine,  
A rustic Bard.

"To give my counsels all in one,—  
Thy tuneful flame still careful fan;  
Preserve the dignity of Man,  
With Soul erect;  
And trust, the Universal Plan  
Will all protect.

"And wear thou this"—she solemn said,  
And bound the Holly round my head:  
The polish'd leaves, and berries red,  
Did rustling play;  
And, like a passing thought, she fled  
In light away.

[SAMUEL ROGERS. 1773—1855.]

## THE OLD ANCESTRAL MANSION.

*The Pleasures of Memory.*

MARK yon old mansion frowning  
through the trees,  
Whose hollow turret woos the whistling  
breeze.  
That casement, arch'd with ivy's browneat  
shade,  
First to these eyes the light of heaven  
conveyed.

The mouldering gateway strews the grass-  
grown court,  
Once the calm scene of many a simple  
sport ;  
When nature pleased, for life itself was  
new,  
And the heart promised what the fancy  
drew.

See, through the fractured pediment  
reveal'd  
Where moss inlays the rudely-sculptured  
shield,  
The martin's old, hereditary nest.  
Long may the ruin spare its hallowed  
guest !

As jars the hinge, what sullen echoes  
call !  
Oh haste, unfold the hospitable hall !  
That hall, where once, in antiquated  
state,  
The chair of justice held the grave debate.

Now stained with dews, with cobwebs  
darkly hung,  
Oft has its roof with peals of rapture  
rung ;  
When round yon ample board, in due  
degree,  
We sweetened every meal with social glee.  
The heart's light laugh pursued the  
circling jest ;  
And all was sunshine in each little breast.  
'Twas here we chased the slipper by the  
sound ;  
And turn'd the blindfold hero round and  
round.  
'Twas here, at eve, we formed our fairy  
ring ;  
And Fancy fluttered on her wildest wing.  
Giants and genii chained each wondering  
ear ;  
And orphan-sorrows drew the ready tear.  
Oft with the babes we wandered in the  
wood,  
Or viewed the forest-feats of Robin Hood ;  
Oft fancy-led, at midnight's fearful hour,  
With startling step we scaled the lonely  
tower ;  
O'er infant innocence to hang and weep,  
Murdered by ruffian hands, when smiling  
in its sleep.

Ye household deities ! whose guardian  
eye  
Mark'd each pure thought, ere registered  
on high ;  
Still, still ye walk the consecrated ground,  
And breathe the soul of Inspiration  
round.

As o'er the dusky furniture I bend,  
Each chair awakes the feelings of a  
friend.  
The storied arras, source of fond delight,  
With old achievement charms the wildered  
sight ;  
And still, with heraldry's rich hues  
imprest,  
On the dim window glows the pictured  
crest.  
The screen unfolds its many-coloured  
chart.  
The clock still points its moral to the  
heart.  
That faithful monitor 't was heaven to  
hear !  
When soft it spoke a promised pleasure  
near :  
And has its sober hand, its simple chime,  
Forgot to trace the feathered feet of  
time ?  
That massive beam, with curious carvings  
wrought,  
Whence the caged linnet soothed my  
pensive thought ;  
Those muskets cased with venerable rust ;  
Those once-loved forms, still breathing  
through their dust,  
Still from the frame, in mould gigantic  
cast,  
Starting to life—all whisper of the past !

As through the garden's desert paths I  
rove,  
What fond illusions swarm in every  
grove !  
How oft, when purple evening tinged the  
west,  
We watched the emmet to her grainy  
nest ;  
Welcomed the wild-bee home on weary  
wing,  
Laden with sweets, the choicest of the  
spring !

How oft inscribed, with Friendship's  
votive rhyme,  
The bark now silvered by the touch of  
time ;  
Soared in the swing, half pleased and half  
afraid,  
Through sister elms that waved their  
summer shade ;  
Or strewed with crumbs yon root-inwoven  
seat,  
To lure the red-breast from his lone  
retreat !

### THE SCHOOL-HOUSE.

THE school's lone porch, with reverend  
mosses gray,  
Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay.  
Mute is the bell that rung at peep of dawn,  
Quickening my truant-feet across the  
lawn ;  
Unheard the shout that rent the noon-tide  
air,  
When the slow dial gave a pause to care.  
Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear,  
Some little friendship form'd and cherish'd  
here !  
And not the lightest leaf, but trembling  
teems  
With golden visions and romantic dreams !

### THE GIPSY ENCAMPMENT.

Down by yon hazel copse, at evening,  
blazed  
The Gipsy's faggot—there we stood and  
gazed ;  
Gazed on her sun-burnt face with silent  
awe,  
Her tatter'd mantle, and her hood of  
straw ;  
Her moving lips, her caldron humming  
o'er ;  
The drowsy brood that on her back she  
bore ;  
Imps, in the barn with mousing owlet  
bred,  
From rifled roost at nightly revel fed ;  
Whose dark eyes flash'd through locks of  
blackest shade,  
When in the breeze the distant watch-dog  
bay'd :

And heroes fled the Sibyl's mutter'd call,  
Whose elfin prowess scaled the orchard-  
wall.  
As o'er my palm the silver piece she  
drew,  
And traced the line of life with searching  
view,  
How throb'd my fluttering pulse with  
hopes and fears,  
To learn the colour of my future years !

### THE BEGGARS.

AH, then, what honest triumph flush'd  
my breast !  
This truth once known—To bless is to be  
blest !  
We led the bending beggar on his way  
(Bare were his feet, his tresses silver-gray),  
Soothed the keen pangs his aged spirit  
felt,  
And on his tale with mute attention  
dwelt.  
As in his scrip we dropt our little store,  
And wept to think that little was no  
more,  
He breathed his prayer, "Long may such  
goodness live !"   
'Twas all he gave, 'twas all he had to  
give.  
Angels, when Mercy's mandate wing'd,  
their flight,  
Had stopt to catch new rapture from the  
sight.

### PARTING FROM HOME.

THE adventurous boy, that asks his  
little share,  
And hies from home, with many a gossip's  
prayer,  
Turns on the neighbouring hill, once  
more to see  
The dear abode of peace and privacy ;  
And as he turns, the thatch among the  
trees,  
The smoke's blue wreaths ascending with  
the breeze,  
The village common spotted white with  
sheep,  
The churchyard yews round which his  
fathers sleep ;

All rouse Reflection's sadly-pleasing train,  
And oft he looks and weeps, and looks  
again.

So, when the mild Tupia dared explore  
Arts yet untaught, and worlds unknown  
before,

And, with the sons of Science, wooed the  
gale,  
That, rising, swelled their strange expanse  
of sail;

So, when he breathed his firm yet fond  
adieu,

Borne from his leafy hut, his carved canoe,  
And all his soul best loved—such tears he  
shed,

While each soft scene of summer-beauty  
fled.

Long o'er the wave a wistful look he cast,  
Long watched the streaming signal from  
the mast;

Till twilight's dewy tints deceived his eye,  
And fairy forests fringed the evening sky.

So Scotia's Queen, as slowly dawned  
the day,  
Rose on her couch, and gazed her soul  
away.

Her eyes had blessed the beacon's glim-  
mering height,

That faintly tipt the feathery surge with  
light;

But now the morn with orient hues por-  
trayed

Each castled cliff, and brown monastic  
shade:

All touched the talisman's resistless spring,  
And lo, what busy tribes were instant on  
the wing!

#### AN EPISTLE TO A FRIEND.

STILL must my partial pencil love to  
dwell

On the home-prospects of my hermit cell;  
The mossy pales that skirt the orchard-  
green,

Here hid by shrub-wood, there by glimpses  
seen;

And the brown pathway, that, with care-  
less flow,

Sinks, and is lost among the trees below.

Still must it trace (the flattering tints for-  
give)

Each fleeting charm that bids the land-  
scape live.

Oft o'er the mead, at pleasing distance,  
pass—

Browsing the hedge by fits, the panniered  
ass;

The idling shepherd-boy, with rude de  
light,

Whistling his dog to mark the pebble's  
flight;

And in her kerchief blue the cottage-  
maid,

With brimming pitcher from the shadowy  
glade.

Far to the south a mountain vale retires,  
Rich in its groves, and glens, and village-  
spires;

Its upland lawns, and cliffs with foliage  
hung,

Its wizard-stream, nor nameless nor un-  
sung:

And through the various year, the various  
day,

What scenes of glory burst, and melt  
away!

\* \* \* \* \*

When Christmas revels in a world of  
snow,

And bids her berries blush, her carols  
flow;

His spangling shower when frost the  
wizard flings;

Or, borne in ether blue, on viewless  
wings,

O'er the white pane his silvery foliage  
weaves,

And gems with icicles the sheltering  
eaves;

—Thy muffled friend his nectarine-wall  
pursues,

What time the sun the yellow crocus  
wooes,

Screened from the arrowy North; and  
duly hies

To meet the morning-rumour as it flies,  
To range the murmuring market-place,

and view  
The motley groups that faithful Teniers

drew.

When Spring bursts forth in blossoms  
through the vale,  
And her wild music triumphs on the gale,  
Oft with my book I muse from stile to  
stile ;  
Oft in my porch the listless noon beguile,  
Framing loose numbers, till declining day  
Through the green trellis shoots a crimson  
ray ;  
Till the west-wind leads on the twilight  
hours,  
And shakes the fragrant bells of closing  
flowers.

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GINEVRA.

If ever you should come to Modena,
(Where among other relics you may see
Tassoni's bucket—but 'tis not the true
one)
Stop at a palace near the Reggio-gate,
Dwelt in of old by one of the Orsini.
Its noble gardens, terrace above terrace,
And rich in fountains, statues, cypresses,
Will long detain you—but, before you go,
Enter the house—forget it not, I pray
you—
And look awhile upon a picture there.

'Tis of a lady in her earliest youth,
The last of that illustrious family ;
He, who observes it—ere he passes on,
Gazes his fill, and comes and comes
again,
That he may call it up, when far away.

She sits, inclining forward as to speak,
Her lips half-open, and her finger up,
As though she said "Beware!" her vest
of gold
Brodered with flowers, and clasped from
head to foot,
An emerald-stone in every golden clasp ;
And on her brow, fairer than alabaster,
A coronet of pearls.

But then her face,
So lovely, yet so arch, so full of mirth,
The overflowings of an innocent heart—
It haunts me still, though many a year
has fled,
Like some wild melody !

Alone it hangs
Over a mouldering heir-loom, its compa-
nion,
An oaken-chest, half-eaten by the
worm,
But richly carved by Antony of Trent
With scripture-stories from the Life of
Christ.

She was an only child—her name
Genevra,
The joy, the pride of an indulgent father ;
And in her fifteenth year became a bride,
Marrying an only son, Francesco Doria,
Her playmate from her birth, and her first
love.

Just as she looks there in her bridal
dress,
She was all gentleness, all gaiety,
Her pranks the favourite theme of every
tongue.
But now the day was come, the day, the
hour ;
Now, frowning, smiling for the hundredth
time,
The nurse, that ancient lady, preached
decorum .
And, in the lustre of her youth, she gave
Her hand, with her heart in it, to Fran-
cesco.

Great was the joy ; but at the nuptial
feast,
When all sat down, the bride herself was
wanting.
Nor was she to be found ! Her Father
cried,
" 'Tis but to make a trial of our love ! "
And filled his glass to all ; but his hand
shook,
And soon from guest to guest the panic
spread.
'Twas but that instant she had left Fran-
cesco,
Laughing and looking back and flying
still,
Her ivory tooth imprinted on his finger.
But now, alas, she was not to be found .
Nor from that hour could anything be
guessed,
But that she was not !

Weary of his life,
 Francesca flew to Venice, and embarking,
 Flung it away in battle with the Turk.
 Orsini lived—and long might you have
 seen
 An old man wandering as in quest of
 something,
 Something he could not find—he knew
 not what.
 When he was gone, the house remained
 awhile
 Silent and tenantless—then went to
 strangers.

Full fifty years were past, and all for-
 gotten,
 When on an idle day, a day of search
 'Mid the old lumber in the gallery,
 That mouldering chest was noticed ; and
 'twas said
 By one as young, as thoughtless as
 Ginevra,
 "Why not remove it from its lurking
 place?"
 'Twas done as soon as said ; but on the
 way
 It burst, it fell ; and lo, a skeleton,
 With here and there a pearl, an emerald-
 stone,
 A golden clasp, clasping a shred of gold.
 All else had perished—save a wedding-
 ring,
 And a small seal, her mother's legacy,
 Engraven with a name, the name of both
 "Ginevra."

There then had she found a grave !
 Within that chest had she concealed her-
 self,
 Fluttering with joy, the happiest of the
 happy ;
 When a spring-lock, that lay in ambush
 there,
 Fastened her down for ever !

VENICE.

THERE is a glorious City in the Sea.
 The sea is in the broad, the narrow streets,
 Ebbing and flowing, and the salt sea-weed
 Clings to the marble of her palaces.
 No track of men, no footsteps to and fro,

Lead to her gates. The path lies o'er
 the sea,
 Invisible ; and from the land we went,
 As to a floating city—steering in,
 And gliding up her streets as in a dream,
 So smoothly, silently—by many a dome
 Mosque-like, and many a stately portico,
 The statues ranged alone an azure sky ;
 By many a pile in more than eastern
 splendour,
 Of old the residence of merchant-kings ;
 The fronts of some, though time had
 shattered them,
 Still glowing with the richest hues of
 art,
 As though the wealth within them had
 run o'er.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.

HER, by her smile, how soon the stranger
 knows ;
 How soon by his the glad discovery
 shows,
 As to her lips she lifts the lovely
 boy,
 What answering looks of sympathy and
 joy !
 He walks, he speaks. In many a broken
 word,
 His wants, his wishes, and his griefs are
 heard.
 And ever, ever to her lap he flies,
 When rosy sleep comes on with sweet
 surprise.
 Locked in her arms, his arms across her
 flung
 (That name most dear for ever on his
 tongue),
 As with soft accents round her neck he
 clings,
 And, cheek to cheek, her lulling song she
 sings :
 How blest to feel the beatings of his
 heart,
 Breathe his sweet breath, and bliss for
 bliss impart :
 Watch o'er his slumbers like the brood-
 ing dove,
 And, if she can, exhaust a mother's love

THE ANGEL TO COLUMBUS IN HIS DREAM.

THE wind recalls thee ; its still voice obey :

Millions await thy coming ; hence, away !
To thee blest tidings of great joy con-
signed,

Another nature and a new mankind !

The vain to dream, the wise to doubt
shall cease ;

Young men be glad, and old depart in
peace.

Hence ! though assembling in the field of
air,

Now, in a night of clouds, thy foes
prepare

To rock the globe with elemental wars,
And dash the floods of ocean to the stars ;
And bid the meek repine, the valiant
weep,

And thee restore thy secret to the deep.

Not then to leave thee ! to their ven-
geance cast

Thy heart their aliment, their dire repast !

* * * * *

To other eyes shall Mexico unfold

Her feathered tapestries and her roofs of
gold :

To other eyes, from distant cliffs descried,
Shall the Pacific roll his ample tide ;
There destined soon rich argosies to ride :

Chains thy reward ! beyond the Atlantic
wave,

Hung in thy chamber, buried in thy
grave !

Thy reverend form to time and grief a
prey ;

A phantom wandering in the light of
day !

What though thy grey hairs to the dust
descend,

Their scent shall track thee, track thee to
the end :

Thy sons reproached with their great
father's fame ;

And on his world inscribed another's
name !

That world a prison-house, full of sights
of woe,

Where groans burst forth, and tears in
torrents flow :

Those gardens of the sun, sacred to
song,

By dogs of carnage, howling loud and
long,

Swept, till the voyager in the desert
air

Starts back to hear his altered accents
there !

Not thine the olive but the sword to
bring ;

Not peace but war ! yet from these shores
shall spring

Peace without end ; from these, with
blood defiled,

Spread the pure spirit of thy Master
mild !

Here in his train shall arts and arms
attend ;

Arts to adorn, and arms, but to defend.

Assembling here all nations shall be
blest ;

The sad be comforted ; the weary rest ;
Untouched shall drop the fetters from the
slave :

And He shall rule the world He died to
save.

Hence, and rejoice. Thy glorious
work is done ;

A spark is thrown that shall eclipse the
sun !

And, though bad men shall long thy
course pursue,

As erst the ravening brood o'er chaos
flew,

He whom I serve shall vindicate His
reign :

The spoiler spoiled of all ; the slayer
slain ;

The tyrant's self, oppressing and op-
prest,

'Mid gems and gold, unenvied and un-
blest :

While to the starry sphere thy name shall
rise

(Nor there unsung thy generous enter-
prise) ;

Thine in all hearts to dwell—by fame
enshrined

With those, the few, who live but for
mankind :

Thine, evermore, transcendant happiness !
World beyond world to visit and to
bless.

DEAR IS MY LITTLE NATIVE VALE.

DEAR is my little native vale,
The ring-dove builds and murmurs
there ;

Close by my cot she tells her tale
To every passing villager ;
The squirrel leaps from tree to tree,
And shells his nuts at liberty.

In orange-groves and myrtle-bowers,
That breathe a gale of fragrance round,
I charm the fairy-footed hours
With my loved lute's romantic sound ;
Or crowns of living laurel weave
For those that win the race at eve.

The shepherd's horn at break of day,
The ballet danced in twilight glade,
The canzonet and roundelay
Sung in the silent greenwood shade :
These simple joys, that never fail,
Shall bind me to my native vale.

MELANCHOLY.

Go ! you may call it madness, folly—
You shall not chase my gloom away ;
There's such a charm in melancholy,
I would not if I could be gay.

Oh, if you knew the pensive pleasure
That fills my bosom when I sigh,
You would not rob me of a treasure
Monarchs are too poor to buy !

A WISH.

MINE be a cot beside the hill ;
A bee-hive's hum shall soothe my ear ;
A willowy brook, that turns a mill,
With many a fall, shall linger near.

The swallow oft, beneath my thatch,
Shall twitter near her clay-built nest ;
Oft shall the pilgrim lift the latch,
And share my meal, a welcome guest.

Around my ivied porch shall spring
Each fragrant flower that drinks the
dew ;

And Lucy, at her wheel, shall sing,
In russet gown and apron blue.

The village church beneath the trees,
Where first our marriage-vows were
given,
With merry peals shall swell the breeze,
And point with taper spire to heaven.

[JAMES HOGG, THE ETTRICK SHEPHERD.
1770—1835]

THE SKY-LARK.

BIRD of the wilderness,
Blythesome and cumberless,
Sweet be thy matin o'er moorland and
lea !

Emblem of happiness,
Blest is thy dwelling-place—
O to abide in the desert with thee !
Wild is thy lay and loud
Far in the downy cloud,
Love gives it energy, love gave it birth.
Where, on thy dewy wing,
Where art thou journeying ?
Thy lay is in heaven, thy love is on earth.

O'er fell and fountain sheen,
O'er moor and mountain green,
O'er the red streamer that heralds the
day,

Over the cloudlet dim,
Over the rainbow's rim,
Musical cherub, soar, singing, away !
Then, when the gloaming comes,
Low in the heather blooms,
Sweet will thy welcome and bed of love
be !

Emblem of happiness,
Blest is thy dwelling-place—
O to abide in the desert with thee !

KILMENY'S VISIONS IN FAIRY LAND.

SHE saw a sun on a summer sky,
And clouds of amber sailing by.

A lovely land beneath her lay,
 And that land had glens and mountains
 grey ;
 And that land had valleys and hoary
 piles,
 And merled seas, and a thousand isles ;
 Its fields were speckled, its forests green,
 And its lakes were all of the dazzling
 sheen,
 Like magic mirrors, where slumbering
 lay
 The sun, and the sky, and the clouldlet
 grey

* * * * *

She saw the corn wave on the vale ;
 She saw the deer run down the dale ;
 She saw the plaid and the broad clay-
 more, [bore :
 And the brows that the badge of freedom
 And she thought she had seen the land
 before.

She saw a lady sit on a throne,
 The fairest that ever the sun shone on !
 A Lion licked her hand of milk,
 And she held him in a leash of silk ;
 And a leifu' maiden stood at her knee,
 With a silver wand and a melting e'e,
 Her sovereign shield, till love stole in,
 And poison'd all the fount within.

Then a gruff untoward bedeman came,
 And hundit the lion on his dame ;
 And the guardian maid, wi' the dauntless
 ee',

She dropped a tear, and left her knee ;
 And she saw till the queen frae the lion
 fled,
 Till the bonniest flower of the world lay
 dead.

A coffin was set on a distant plain,
 And she saw the red blood fall like rain ;
 Then bonny Kilmeny's heart grew sair,
 And she turned away, and could look nae
 mair.

Then the gruff grim carle girmed amain,
 And they trampled him down, but he
 rose again ;

And he baited the lion to deeds of weir,
 Till he lapped the blood to the kingdom
 dear ;

And, weening his head was danger-preef,
 When crowned with the rose and the
 clover-leaf,

He gowled at the carle, and chased him
 away,
 To feed with the deer on the mountain
 grey.

He gowled at the carle, and he gecked at
 heaven,

But his mark was set, and his arles given.
 Kilmeny awhile her een withdrew ;
 She looked again, and the scene was new.

She saw below her fair unfurled
 One half of all the glowing world,
 Where oceans rolled, and rivers ran,
 To bound the aims of sinful man.
 She saw a people, fierce and fell,
 Burst frae their bounds like fiends of hell ;
 There lilies grew, and the eagle flew,
 And she herked on her ravening crew,
 Till the cities and towers were wrapt in a
 blaze,
 And the thunder it roared o'er the land
 and the seas.

The widows they wailed, and the red
 blood ran,
 And she threatened an end to the race of
 man :

She never lened nor stood in awe,
 Till caught by the lion's deadly paw.
 Oh ! then the eagle swinked for-life,
 And brainyelled up a mortal strife ;
 But flew she north, or flew she south,
 She met wi' the gowl of the lion's mouth.

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### KILMENY'S RETURN FROM FAIRY LAND.

WHEN seven lang years had come and  
 fled :

When grief was calm, and hope was  
 dead ;

When scarce was remembered Kilmeny's  
 name,

Late, late in a gloamin', Kilmeny cam'  
 hame !

And O, her beauty was fair to see  
 But still and steadfast was her e'e .  
 Such beauty bard may never declare,  
 For there was no pride nor passion there ;  
 And the soft desire of maidens' een  
 In that mild face could never be seen.

Her seymar was the lily flower,  
 And her check the moss-rose in the  
 shower ;

And her voice like the distant melodie  
That floats along the twilight sea.  
But she loved to raik the lanely glen,  
And keepit afar frae the haunts of men,  
Her holy hymns unheard to sing,  
To suck the flowers, and drink the spring.  
But, wherever her peaceful form appeared,  
The wild beasts of the hill were cheered :  
The wolf played blythely round the field,  
The lordly byson lowed and kneeled ;  
The dun-deer wooed with manner bland,  
And cowered aneath her lily hand.  
And when at even the woodlands rung,  
When hymns of other worlds she sung,  
In ecstasy of sweet devotion,  
O, then the glen was all in motion :  
The wild beasts of the forest came ;  
Broke from their bughts and faulds the  
tame,  
And goved around, charmed and amazed ;  
Even the dull cattle crooned and gazed,  
And murmured, and looked with anxious  
pain  
For something the mystery to explain.  
The buzzard came with the throstle-cock,  
The corby left her houw in the rock ;  
The blackbird along wi' the eagle flew ;  
The hind came tripping o'er the dew ;  
The wolf and the kid their raik began,  
And the tod, and the lamb, and the  
leveret ran ;  
The hawk and the hern atour them hung,  
And the merl and the mavis forhooyed  
their young ;  
And all in a peaceful ring were hurled :  
It was like an eve in a sinless world !

[MRS. BARBAULD. 1743—1825.]

### LIFE.

LIFE ! we've been long together  
Through pleasant and through cloudy  
weather ;  
'Tis hard to part when friends are  
dear ;  
Perhaps 't will cost a sigh, a tear ;  
Then steal away, give little warning,  
Choose thine own time,  
Say not "Good Night," but in some  
brighter clime  
Bid me "Good morning."

### DIRGE.

PURE spirit ! O where art thou now ?  
O whisper to my soul !  
O let some soothing thought of thee,  
This bitter grief control !

'Tis not for thee the tears I shed,  
Thy sufferings now are o'er ;  
The sea is calm, the tempest past,  
On that eternal shore.

No more the storms that wreck thy peace,  
Shall tear that gentle breast ;  
Nor Summer's rage, nor Winter's cold,  
Thy poor, poor frame molest.

Thy peace is sealed, thy rest is sure,  
My sorrows are to come ;  
Awhile I weep and linger here,  
Then follow to the tomb.

And is the awful veil withdrawn,  
That shrouds from mortal eyes,  
In deep impenetrable gloom,  
The secrets of the skies ?

O, in some dream of visioned bliss,  
Some trance of rapture, show  
Where, on the bosom of thy God,  
Thou rest'st from human woe !

Thence may thy pure devotion's flame  
On me, on me descend ;  
To me thy strong aspiring hopes,  
Thy faith, thy fervours lend.

Let these my lonely path illumine,  
And teach my weakened mind  
To welcome all that's left of good,  
To all that's lost resigned.

Farewell ! With honour, peace, and love,  
Be thy dear memory blest !  
Thou hast no tears for me to shed,  
When I too am at rest.

### ODE TO SPRING.

SWEET daughter of a rough and stormy  
sire,  
Hoar Winter's blooming child, delightful  
Spring !

Whose unshorn locks with leaves  
And swelling buds are crown'd ;

From the green islands of eternal youth,  
(Crowned with fresh blooms, and ever-  
springing shade)

Turn, hither turn thy step,  
O thou, whose powerful voice,

More sweet than softest touch of Dorian  
reed,

Or Lydian flute, can soothe the madding  
winds,

And through the stormy deep  
Breathe thy own tender calm.

Thee, best beloved ! the virgin train  
await, [rove

With songs, and festal rites, and joy to  
Thy blooming wilds among,  
And vales and downy lawns,

With untired feet ; and cull thy earliest  
sweets [brow

To weave fresh garlands for the glowing  
Of him, the favoured youth,  
That prompts their whispered sigh.

Unlock thy copious stores ; those tender  
showers

That drop their sweetness on the infant  
buds,

And silent dews that swell  
The milky ear's green stem,

And feed the flowering osier's early  
shoots ;

And call those winds, which through the  
whispering boughs

With warm and pleasant breath  
Salute the blowing flowers.

Now let me sit beneath the whitening  
thorn,

And mark thy spreading tints steal o'er  
the dale,

And watch with patient eye  
Thy fair unfolding charms.

O Nymph ! approach, while yet the tem-  
perate Sun,

With bashful forehead, through the cool  
moist air

Throws his young maiden beams,  
And with chaste kisses woos

The Earth's fair bosom ; while the  
streaming veil

Of lucid clouds with kind and frequent  
shade

Protects thy modest blooms  
From his severer blaze.

Sweet is thy reign, but short : the red  
dogstar

Shall scorch thy tresses ; and the mower's  
scythe

Thy greens, thy flowerets all,  
Remorseless shall destroy.

Reluctant shall I bid thee then farewell ;  
For O ! not all that Autumn's lap con-  
tains,

Nor Summer's ruddiest fruits,  
Can aught for thee atone,

Fair Spring ! whose simplest promise  
more delights,

Than all their largest wealth, and through  
the heart

Each joy and new-born hope  
With softest influence breathes.

[MRS. AMELIA OPIE. 1769—1853.]

### GO, YOUTH BELOVED.

Go, youth beloved, in distant glades  
New friends, new hopes, new joys  
find,

Yet sometimes deign, 'midst fairer maids,  
To think on her thou leav'st behind.

Thy love, thy fate, dear youth, to share,  
Must never be my happy lot,

But thou mayst grant this humble prayer,  
Forget me not, forget me not !

Yet should the thought of my distress  
Too painful to thy feelings be,

Heed not the wish I now express,  
Nor ever deign to think on me ;

But, oh, if grief thy steps attend,  
If want, if sickness be thy lot,

And thou require a soothing friend ;  
Forget me not, forget me not !

[JOHN HOME. 1724—1808.]

## THE FOREST BY MIDNIGHT.

THIS is the place, the centre of the  
grove ;  
Here stands the oak, the monarch of the  
wood.  
How sweet and solemn is this midnight  
scene !  
The silver moon, unclouded, holds her  
way,  
Through skies where I could count each  
little star.  
The fanning west wind scarcely stirs the  
leaves.  
The river, rushing o'er its pebbled bed,  
Imposes silence with a stilly sound.  
In such a place as this, at such an hour,  
If ancestry in aught can be believed,  
Descending spirits have conversed with  
man,  
And told the secrets of the world un-  
known.

[JOHN LOGAN. 1748—1788.]

## ODE TO THE CUCKOO.

HAIL, beauteous stranger of the grove !  
Thou messenger of Spring !  
Now Heaven repairs thy rural seat,  
And woods thy welcome sing.

What time the daisy decks the green,  
Thy certain voice we hear ;  
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,  
Or mark the rolling year ?

Delightful visitant ! with thee  
I hail the time of flowers,  
And hear the sound of music sweet  
From birds among the bowers.

The school-boy, wandering through the  
wood  
To pull the primrose gay,  
Starts, the new voice of Spring to hear,  
And imitates thy lay.

What time the pea puts on the bloom  
Thou fliest thy vocal vale,  
An annual guest in other lands.  
Another Spring to hail.

Sweet bird ! thy bower is ever green,  
Thy sky is ever clear ;  
Thou hast no sorrow in thy song,  
No Winter in thy year !

O could I fly, I'd fly with thee !  
We'd make, with joyful wing,  
Our annual visit o'er the globe,  
Companions of the Spring.

## YARROW STREAM.

THY banks were bonnie, Yarrow stream,  
When first on thee I met my lover ;  
Thy banks how dreary, Yarrow stream,  
When now thy waves his body cover !

For ever now, O Yarrow stream,  
Thou art to me a stream of sorrow ;  
For never on thy banks shall I  
Behold my love—the flower of Yarrow !

He promised me a milk-white horse,  
To bear me to his father's bowers ;  
He promised me a little page,  
To squire me to his father's towers.

He promised me a wedding-ring,  
The wedding-day was fixed to-morrow ;  
Now he is wedded to his grave,  
Alas ! a watery grave in Yarrow !

Sweet were his words when last we met,  
My passion as I freely told him ;  
Clasp'd in his arms, I little thought  
That I should never more behold him.

Scarce was he gone, I saw his ghost—  
It vanished with a shriek of sorrow ;  
Thrice did the Water Wraith ascend,  
And give a doleful groan through Yarrow !

His mother from the window looked,  
With all the longing of a mother ;  
His little sister, weeping, walked  
The greenwood path to meet her brother.

They sought him east, they sought him  
west,  
They sought him all the forest thorough ;  
They only saw the clouds of night—  
They only heard the roar of Yarrow !

No longer from thy window look—  
Thou hast no son, thou tender mother !  
No longer walk, thou lovely maid—  
Alas ! thou hast no more a brother !

No longer seek him east or west,  
No longer search the forest thorough,  
For, murdered in the night so dark,  
He lies a lifeless corpse in Yarrow !

The tears shall never leave my cheek,  
No other youth shall be my marrow ;  
I'll seek thy body in the stream,  
And there with thee I'll sleep in Yarrow !

The tear did never leave her cheek,  
No other youth became her marrow ;  
She found his body in the stream,  
And with him now she sleeps in Yarrow.

~~~~~  
[ROBERT BLOMFIELD. 1766—1823.]

THE BLIND CHILD.

WHERE'S the blind child, so admirably
fair,

With guileless dimples, and with flaxen
hair

That waves in every breeze ? He's often
seen

Beside yon cottage wall, or on the green,
With others matched in spirit and in size,
Health on their cheeks and rapture in
their eyes.

That full expanse of voice to childhood
dear,

Soul of their sports, is duly cherished
And hark, that laugh is his, that jovial cry ;
He hears the ball and trundling hoop
brush by,

And runs the giddy course with all his
might,

A very child in everything but sight ;
With circumscribed, but not abated
powers,

Play, the great object of his infant hours.
In many a game he takes a noisy part,
And shows the native gladness of his
heart ;

But soon he hears, on pleasure all intent,
new suggestion and the quick assent ;

The grove invites, delight fills every
breast—

To leap the ditch, and seek the downy
nest,

Away they start ; leave balls and hoops
behind,

And one companion leave—the boy is
blind !

His fancy paints their distant paths so gay,
That childish fortitude awhile gives way :

He feels his dreadful loss ; yet short the
pain,

Soon he resumes his cheerfulness again,
Pondering how best his moments to em-
ploy

He sings his little songs of nameless joy ;
Creeps on the warm green turf for many
an hour,

And plucks by chance the white and
yellow flower ;

Smoothing their stems while, resting on
his knees,

He binds a nosegay which he never sees ;
Along the homeward path then feels his
way,

Lifting his brow against the shining day,
And with a playful rapture round his eyes,
Presents a sighing parent with the prize.

A SHEPHERD'S LIFE.

~~~~~  
NEGLECTED now the early daisy lies ;  
Nor thou, pale primrose, bloom'st the  
only prize ;

Advancing Spring profusely spreads  
abroad

Flowers of all hues, with sweetest fragrance  
stored ;

Where'er she treads, love gladdens every  
plain,

Delight on tiptoe bears her lucid train ;  
Sweet hope with conscious brow before  
her flies,

Anticipating wealth from Summer skies ;  
All nature feels her renovating sway ;

The sheep-fed pasture, and the meadow  
gay ;

And trees, and shrubs, no longer budding  
seen,

Display the new-grown branch of lighter  
[green ;

On airy downs the shepherd idling lies,  
And sees to-morrow in the marbled skies

Here, then, my soul, thy darling theme  
pursue,  
For every day was Giles a shepherd too.

Small was his charge: no wilds had  
they to roam:

But bright inclosures circling round their  
home. [thorn,

No yellow-blossomed furze, nor stubborn  
The heath's rough produce, had their  
fleeces torn:

Yet ever roving, ever seeking thee,  
Enchanting spirit, dear variety!

O happy tenants, prisoners of a day!

Released to ease, to pleasure, and to play;

Indulged through every field by turns to  
range,

And taste them all in one continual  
change.

For though luxuriant their grassy food,  
Sheep long confined but lothe the present  
good;

Bleating around the homeward gate they  
meet,

And starve, and pine, with plenty at their  
feet.

Loosed from the winding lane, a joyful  
throng,

See, o'er yon pasture, how they pour  
along!

Giles round their boundaries takes his  
usual stroll;

Sees every pass secured, and fences  
whole;

High fences, proud to charm the gazing  
eye,

Where many a nestling first essays to fly;

Where blows the woodbine, faintly  
streaked with red,

And rests on every bough its tender head;

Round the young ash its twining branches  
meet,

Or crown the hawthorn with its odours  
sweet.

~~~~~  
[JAMES GRAHAM. 1765—1811.]

THE WORSHIP OF GOD, IN THE SOLITUDE OF THE WOODS.

It is not only in the sacred fane
That homage should be paid to the Most
High;

There is a temple, one not made with
hands—

The vaulted firmament: Far in the woods,
Almost beyond the sound of city chime,
At intervals heard through the breezeless
air;

When not the limberest leaf is seen to
move, [spray;

Save where the linnet lights upon the
When not a floweret bends its little stalk,
Save where the bee alights upon the
bloom;—

There, rapt in gratitude, in joy, and love,
The man of God will pass the Sabbath
noon;

Silence his praise; his disembodied
thoughts,

Loosed from the load of words, will high
ascend

Beyond the empyrean—

Nor yet less pleasing at the heavenly
throne,

The Sabbath-service of the shepherd-boy!
In some lone glen, where every sound
is lulled

To slumber, save the tinkling of the rill,
Or bleat of lamb, or hovering falcon's
cry, [son;

Stretched on the sward, he reads of Jesse's
Or sheds a tear o'er him to Egypt sold,
And wonders why he weeps; the volume
close^d,

With thyme-sprig laid between the leaves,
he sings

The sacred lays, his weekly lesson, conned
With meikle care beneath the lowly roof,
Where humble lore is learnt, where
humble worth

Pines unrewarded by a thankless state.

Thus reading, hymning, all alone, unseen,
The shepherd-boy the Sabbath holy keeps,
Till on the heights he marks the straggling
bands

Returning homeward from the house of
prayer.

~~~~~  
[RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN. 1751—1816.]

### HAD I A HEART FOR FALSE- HOOD FRAMED.

HAD I a heart for falsehood framed,  
I ne'er could injure you; K

For though your tongue no promise  
claimed,

Your charms would make me true :  
To you no soul shall bear deceit,  
No stranger offer wrong ;  
But friends in all the aged you'll meet,  
And lovers in the young.

For when they learn that you have blest  
Another with your heart,  
They'll bid aspiring passion rest,  
And act a brother's part ;  
Then, lady, dread not here deceit,  
Nor fear to suffer wrong ;  
For friends in all the aged you'll meet,  
And lovers in the young.

### LOVE FOR LOVE.

I NE'ER could any lustre see  
In eyes that would not look on me ;  
I ne'er saw nectar on a lip,  
But where my own did hope to sip.  
Has the maid who seeks my heart  
Cheeks of rose, untouched by art ?  
I will own the colour true,  
When yielding blushes aid 'their hue.

Is her hand so soft and pure ?  
I must press it, to be sure ;  
Nor can I be certain then,  
Till it, grateful, press again.  
Must I, with attentive eye,  
Watch her heaving bosom sigh ?  
I will do so, when I see  
That heaving bosom sigh for me.

[ANONYMOUS. 1782.]

### FAIR ROSALIND.

FAIR Rosalind in woful wise  
Six hearts has bound in thrall ;  
As yet she undetermined lies  
Which she her spouse shall call.  
Wretched, and only wretched he  
To whom that lot shall fall ;  
For if her heart aright I see,  
She means to please them all.

[SIR CHARLES HANBURY WILLIAMS. 1774.]

### DEAR BETTY.

DEAR Betty, come give me sweet kisses,  
For sweeter no girl ever gave ;  
But why, in the midst of our blisses,  
Do you ask me how many I'd have ?  
I'm not to be stinted in pleasure ;  
Then prithee, dear Betty, be kind ;  
For as I love thee beyond measure,  
To numbers I'll not be confined.

Count the bees that on Hybla are  
straying,  
Count the flowers that enamel the  
fields, [playing,  
Count the flocks that on Tempe are  
Or the grain that each Sicily yields ;  
Count how many stars are in heaven,  
Go reckon the sands on the shore ;  
And when so many kisses you've given,  
I still will be asking for more.

To a heart full of love let me hold thee,  
A heart that, dear Betty, is thine ;  
In my arms I'll for ever enfold thee,  
And curl round thy neck like a vine.  
What joy can be greater than this is ?  
My life on thy lips shall be spent ;  
But those who can number their kisses,  
Will always with few be content.

[HENRY KIRKE WHITE. 1785—1806.]

### CHILDHOOD.

PICTURED in memory's mellowing glass  
how sweet  
Our infant days, our infant joys to greet :  
To roam in fancy in each cherished scene,  
The village churchyard, and the village  
green. [glade,  
The woodland walk remote, the greenwood  
The mossy seat beneath the hawthorn's  
shade,  
The whitewashed cottage, where the wood  
bine grew,  
And all the favourite haunts our childhood  
knew !  
How sweet, while all the evil shuns the  
gaze,  
To view the unclouded skies of former  
days !

Beloved age of innocence and smiles,  
 When each winged hour some new delight  
 beguiles,  
 When the gay heart, to life's sweet day-  
 spring true,  
 Still finds some insect pleasure to pursue.  
 Blest Childhood, hail !—Thee simply will  
 I sing,  
 And from myself the artless picture bring ;  
 These long-lost scenes to me the past  
 restore,  
 Each humble friend, each *pleasure*, now  
 no more,  
 And every stump familiar to my sight,  
 Recalls some fond idea of delight.

This shrubby knoll was once my favourite  
 seat ;  
 Here did I love at evening to retreat,  
 And muse alone, till in the vault of night,  
 Hesper, aspiring, show'd his golden light.  
 Here once again, remote from human  
 noise,  
 I sit me down to think of former joys ;  
 Pause on each scene, each treasured scene,  
 once more,  
 And once again each infant walk explore,  
 While as each grove and lawn I recognise,  
 My melted soul suffuses in my eyes.

#### THE EVENING WALK OF YOUTHFUL FRIENDS.

At evening too, how pleasing was our  
 walk,  
 Endear'd by Friendship's unrestrained  
 talk, [way,  
 When to the upland heights we bent our  
 To view the last beam of departing day ;  
 How calm was all around ! no playful  
 breeze  
 Sighed 'mid the wavy foliage of the trees,  
 But all was still, save when, with drowsy  
 song,  
 The grey-fly wound his sullen horn along ;  
 And save when heard in soft, yet merry  
 glee,  
 The distant church-bells' mellow har-  
 mony ;  
 The silver mirror of the lucid brook,  
 That 'mid the tufted broom its still course  
 took ;

The rugged arch, that clasped its silent  
 tides,  
 With moss and rank weeds hanging down  
 its sides :  
 The craggy rock, that jutted on the sight ;  
 The shrieking bat, that took its heavy  
 flight ;  
 All, all was pregnant with divine delight.  
 We loved to watch the swallow swimming  
 high,  
 In the bright azure of the vaulted sky ;  
 Or gaze upon the clouds, whose coloured  
 pride  
 Was scattered thinly o'er the welkin wide,  
 And tinged with such variety of shade,  
 To the charmed soul sublimest thoughts  
 conveyed.  
 In these what forms romantic did we  
 trace,  
 While fancy led us o'er the realms of  
 space !  
 Now we espied the thunderer in his car,  
 Leading the embattled seraphim to war,  
 Then stately towers descried, sublimely  
 high,  
 In Gothic grandeur frowning on the sky—  
 Or saw, wide stretching o'er the azure  
 height,  
 A ridge of glaciers in mural white,  
 Hugely terrific.—But those times are o'er,  
 And the fond scene can charm mine eyes  
 no more ;  
 For thou art gone, and I am left below,  
 Alone to struggle through this world of  
 woe.

#### THE DAME-SCHOOL.

HERE first I entered, though with toil and  
 pain,  
 The low vestibule of learning's fane :  
 Entered with pain, yet soon I found the  
 way,  
 Though sometimes toilsome, many a sweet  
 display.  
 Much did I grieve, on that ill-fated morn,  
 When I was first to school reluctant  
 borne ;  
 Severe I thought the dame, though oft  
 she tried  
 To soothe my swelling spirits when I  
 sighed ;



And oft, when harshly she reproved, I  
wept,  
To my lone corner brokenhearted crept,  
And thought of tender home, where anger  
never kept.

But soon inured to alphabetic toils,  
Alert I met the dame with jocund smiles;  
First at the form, my task for ever true,  
A little favourite rapidly I grew:  
And oft she stroked my head with fond  
delight,  
Held me a pattern to the dunce's sight;  
And as she gave my diligence its praise,  
Talked of the honours of my future days.

### NIGHT.

BEHOLD the world  
Rests, and her tired inhabitants have  
paused  
From trouble and turmoil. The widow  
now  
Has ceased to weep, and her twin orphans  
lie  
Locked in each arm, partakers of her rest.  
The man of sorrow has forgot his woes;  
The outcast that his head is shelterless,  
His griefs unshared.—The mother tends  
no more  
Her daughter's dying slumbers, but, sur-  
prised  
With heaviness, and sunk upon her couch,  
Dreams of her bridals. Even the hectic,  
lulled  
On Death's lean arm to rest, in visions  
wrapt,  
Crowning with hope's bland wreath his  
shuddering nurse,  
Poor victim! smiles.—Silence and deep  
repose  
Reign o'er the nations; and the warning  
voice  
Of nature utters audibly within  
The general moral:—tells us that repose,  
Deathlike as this, but of far longer span,  
Is coming on us—that the weary crowds  
Who now enjoy a temporary calm,  
Shall soon taste lasting quiet, wrapt  
around  
With grave-clothes; and their aching,  
restless heads

Mouldering in holes and corners un-  
observed,  
Till the last trump shall break their sullen  
sleep.

### THE FUTILITY OF FAME.

WHERE are the heroes of the ages past?  
Where the brave chieftains, where the  
mighty ones  
Who flourished in the infancy of days?  
All to the grave gone down. On their  
fallen fame  
Exulting, mocking at the pride of man,  
Sits grim *Forgetfulness*.—The warrior's  
arm  
Lies nerveless on the pillow of its shame;  
Hushed is his stormy voice, and quenched  
the blaze  
Of his red eye-ball.—Yesterday his name  
Was mighty on the earth.—To-day—'tis  
what?  
The meteor of the night of distant years,  
That flashed unnoticed, save by wrinkled  
eld,  
Musing at midnight upon prophecies,  
Who at her lonely lattice saw the gleam  
Point to the mist-poised shroud, then  
quietly  
Closed her pale lips, and locked the  
secret up  
Safe in the charnel's treasures.

O how weak  
Is mortal man! how trifling—how con-  
fined  
His scope of vision. Puffed with con-  
fidence,  
His phrase grows big with immortality,  
And he, poor insect of a summer's day,  
Dreams of eternal honours to his name;  
Of endless glory and perennial bays.  
He idly reasons of eternity,  
As of the train of ages,—when, alas!  
Ten thousand thousand of his centuries  
Are, in comparison a little point,  
Too trivial for accompt.—O it is  
strange,  
'Tis passing strange, to mark his fallacies;  
Behold him proudly view some pompous  
pile,  
Whose high dome swells to emulate the  
skies,

And smile: and say, my name shall live  
with this  
'Till Time shall be no more; while at  
his feet,  
Yea, at his very feet the crumbling  
dust  
Of the fallen fabric of the other day,  
Preaches the solemn lesson—he *should*  
know,  
That time must conquer; that the loudest  
blast  
That ever filled Renown's obstreperous  
trump,  
Fades in the lapse of ages, and expires.  
Who lies inhumed in the terrific gloom  
Of the gigantic pyramid? or who  
Reared its huge walls? Oblivion laughs  
and says,  
The prey is mine.—They sleep, and never  
more  
Their names shall strike upon the ear of  
man,  
Their memory burst its fetters.

### THE CITIES OF THE PAST.

WHERE is *Rome*?

She lives but in the tale of other  
times;  
Her proud pavilions are the hermit's  
home;  
And her long colonnades, her public  
walks,  
Now faintly echo to the pilgrim's feet  
Who comes to muse to solitude, and  
trace,  
Through the rank moss revealed, her  
honoured dust.  
But not to Rome alone has fate con-  
fined  
The doom of ruin; cities number-  
less,  
Tyre, Sidon, Carthage, Babylon, and  
Troy,  
d rich Phœnicia—they are blotted  
out,  
Half-razed from memory, and their very  
name  
And being in dispute.

### A THOUSAND YEARS HENCE.

WHERE now is Britain?—Where her  
laurelled names,  
Her palaces and halls? Dashed in the  
dust.  
Some second Vandal hath reduced her  
pride,  
And with one big recoil hath thrown her  
back  
To primitive barbarity.—Again,  
Through her depopulated vales, the  
scream  
Of bloody superstition hollow rings,  
And the scared native to the tempest  
howls  
The yell of deprecation. O'er her marts,  
Her crowded ports, broods Silence; and  
the cry  
Of the low curlew, and the pensive dash  
Of distant billows, breaks alone the void.  
Even as the savage sits upon the stone  
That marks where stood her capitol, and  
hears  
The bittern booming in the weeds, he  
shrinks  
From the dismaying solitude.—Her bards  
Sing in a language that hath perished;  
And their wild harps, suspended o'er  
their graves,  
Sigh to the desert winds a dying strain.  
Meanwhile the arts, in second infancy,  
Rise in some distant clime, and then per-  
chance  
Some bold adventurer, filled with golden  
dreams,  
Steering his bark through trackless  
solitudes,  
Where, to his wandering thoughts, no  
daring prow  
Hath ever ploughed before,—espies the  
cliffs  
Of fallen Albion.—To the land unknown  
He journeys joyful; and perhaps descries.  
Some vestige of her ancient stateliness;  
Then he, with vain conjecture, fills his  
mind  
Of the unheard of race, which had arrived  
At science in that solitary nook,  
Far from the civil world: and sagely  
sighs  
And moralizes on the state of man.

## THE PAST ETERNITY.

Oh it is fearful, on the midnight couch,  
When the rude rushing winds forget to  
rave,

And the pale moon, that through the  
casement high

Surveys the sleepless muser, stamps the  
hour

Of utter silence, it is fearful then

To steer the mind, in deadly solitude,

Up the vague stream of probability :

To wind the mighty secrets of the *past*,

And turn the key of time !—Oh who can  
strive

To comprehend the vast, the awful truth,

Of the *eternity that hath gone by*,

And not recoil from the dismaying sense

Of human impotence ? The life of man

Is summed in birth-days and in sepulchres ;

But the Eternal God had no beginning ;

He hath no end. Time had been with  
him

For *everlasting*, ere the dædal world

Rose from the gulf in loveliness.—Like  
him

It knew no source, like him 'twas un-  
create.

What is it then ? The past Eternity !

We comprehend a *future* without end ;

We feel it possible that even yon sun

May roll for ever ; but we shrink amazed—

We stand aghast, when we reflect that  
Time

Knew no commencement.—That heap  
age on age,

And million upon million, without end.

And we shall never span the void of days

That were, and are not but in retrospect.

The Past is an unfathomable depth,  
Beyond the span of thought ; 'tis an  
elapse

Which hath no mensuration, but hath  
been

For ever and for ever.

## THE FUTURE ETERNITY.

Now look on man  
Myriads of ages hence. — Hath time  
elapsed ?

Is he not standing in the self-same place

Where once we stood ?—The same Eter-  
nity

Hath gone before him, and is yet to  
come :

His *past* is not of longer span than ours,

Though myriads of ages intervened ;

For who can add to what has neither  
sum,

Nor bound, nor source, nor estimate, nor  
end ?

Oh, who can compass the Almighty  
mind ?

Who can unlock the secrets of the High !

In speculations of an altitude

Sublime as this, our reason stands confest

Foolish, and insignificant, and mean.

Who can apply the futile argument

Of finite beings to infinity ?

He might as well compress the universe

Into the hollow compass of a gourd,

Scooped out by human art ; or bid the  
whale

Drink up the sea it swims in.—Can the  
less

Contain the greater ? or the dark obscure

Infold the glories of meridian day ?

What does philosophy impart to man

But undiscovered wonders ?—Let her  
soar

Even to her proudest heights,—to where  
she caught

The soul of Newton and of Socrates,

She but extends the scope of wild amaze

And admiration. All her lessons end

In wider views of God's unfathomed  
depths.

MAN'S LITTLENES IN PRE-  
SENCE OF THE STARS.

THOU, proud man, look upon yon starry  
vault,

Survey the countless gems which richly  
stud

The night's imperial chariot ;—Telescopes

Will show the myriads more, innumerable

As the sea-sand ;—each of those little  
lamps

Is the great source of light, the central  
sun

Round which some other mighty sister-  
hood

Of planets travel,—every planet stocked  
 With living beings impotent as thee.  
 Now, proud man—now, where is thy  
 greatness fled?  
 What art thou in the scale of universe?  
 Less, less than nothing!

### IRRESISTIBLE TIME.

REAR thou aloft thy standard.—Spirit,  
 rear  
 Thy flag on high!—Invincible, and  
 throned  
 In unparticipated might. Behold  
 Earth's proudest boast, beneath thy silent  
 sway,  
 Sweep headlong to destruction, thou the  
 while,  
 Unmoved and heedless, thou dost hear  
 the rush  
 Of mighty generations, as they pass  
 To the broad gulf of ruin, and dost stamp  
 Thy signet on them, and they rise no  
 more.  
 Who shall contend with Time—un-  
 vanquished Time,  
 The conqueror of conquerors, and lord  
 Of desolation?—Lo! the shadows fly,  
 The hours and days, and years and cen-  
 turies,  
 They fly, they fly, and nations rise and  
 fall.  
 The young are old, the old are in their  
 graves.  
 Heardst thou that shout? It rent the  
 vaulted skies;  
 It was the voice of people,—mighty  
 crowds,—  
 Again! 'tis hushed—Time speaks, and  
 all is hushed;  
 In the vast multitude now reigns alone  
 Unruffled solitude. They all are still;  
 All—yea, the whole—the incalculable  
 mass,  
 Still as the ground that clasps their cold  
 remains.  
 Rear thou aloft thy standard.—Spirit, rear  
 Thy flag on high; and glory in thy  
 strength.  
 But do thou know, the season yet shall  
 come,

When from its base thine adamantine  
 throne  
 Shall tumble; when thine arm shall cease  
 to strike,  
 Thy voice forget its petrifying power;  
 When saints shall shout, and *Time shall*  
*be no more.*  
 Yea, He doth come—the mighty champion,  
 comes,  
 Whose potent spear shall give thee thy  
 death-wound,  
 Shall crush the conqueror of conquerors,  
 And desolate stern desolation's lord.  
 Lo! where He cometh! the Messiah  
 comes!  
 The King! the Comforter! the Christ!  
 —He comes  
 To burst the bonds of death, and over-  
 turn  
 The power of Time.

### SONNET TO MY MOTHER.

AND canst thou, Mother, for a moment  
 think  
 That we, thy children, when old age  
 shall shed  
 Its blanching honours on thy weary  
 head,  
 Could from our best of duties ever  
 shrink?  
 Sooner the sun from his high sphere  
 should sink  
 Than we, ungrateful, leave thee in that  
 day,  
 To pine in solitude thy life away,  
 Or shun thee, tottering on the grave's  
 cold brink.  
 Banish the thought!—where'er our steps  
 may roam,  
 O'er smiling plains, or wastes without  
 a tree,  
 Still will fond memory point our hearts  
 to thee,  
 And paint the pleasures of thy peaceful  
 home;  
 While duty bids us all thy griefs ar-  
 suage,  
 And smooth the pillow of thy sinking  
 age.

## SECLUSION.

SWEET to the gay of heart is Summer's  
 smile,  
 Sweet the wild music of the laughing  
 Spring ;  
 But ah ! my soul far other scenes beguile,  
 Where gloomy storms their sul<sup>tan</sup>  
 shadows fling.  
 Is it for me to strike the Idalian string—  
 Raise the soft music of the warbling  
 wire,  
 While in my ears the howls of furies ring,  
 And melancholy wastes the vital fire ?  
 Away with thoughts like these. To some  
 lone cave  
 Where howls the shrill blast, and where  
 sweeps the wave,  
 Direct my steps ; there, in the lonely  
 drear,  
 I'll sit remote from worldly noise, and  
 muse  
 Till through my soul shall Peace her  
 balm infuse,  
 And whisper sounds of comfort in mine  
 ear.

## THE POET.

QUICK o'er the wintry waste dart fiery  
 shafts—  
 Bleak blows the blast—now howls—  
 then faintly dies—  
 And oft upon its awful wings it wafts  
 The dying wanderer's distant, feeble  
 cries.  
 Now, when athwart the gloom gaunt  
 horror stalks,  
 And midnight hags their damned vigils  
 hold,  
 The pensive poet 'mid the wild waste  
 walks,  
 And ponders on the ill's life's paths un-  
 fold.  
 Mindless of dangers hovering round, he  
 goes,  
 Insensible to every outward ill ;  
 Yet oft his bosom heaves with rending  
 throes,  
 And oft big tears adown his worn  
 cheeks trill.  
 Ah ! 'tis the anguish of a mental sore,  
 Which gnaws his heart and bids him  
 hope no more.

## TO CONTEMPLATION.

COME, pensive sage, who lovest to dwell  
 In some retired Lapponian cell,  
 Where far from noise, and riot rude,  
 Resides sequestered solitude.  
 Come, and o'er my longing soul  
 Throw thy dark and russet stole,  
 And open to my duteous eyes  
 The volume of thy mysteries.

I will meet thee on the hill,  
 Where, with printless footstep still,  
 The morning in her buskin grey  
 Springs upon her eastern way ;  
 While the frolic zephyrs stir,  
 Playing with the gossamer,  
 And, on ruder pinions borne,  
 Shake the dew-drops from the thorn.  
 There, as o'er the fields we pass,  
 Brushing with hasty feet the grass,  
 We will startle from her nest,  
 The lively lark with speckled breast,  
 And hear the floating clouds among  
 Her gale-transported matins scang,  
 Or on the upland stile embowered,  
 With fragrant hawthorn snowy flowered,  
 Will sauntering sit, and listen still,  
 To the herdsman's oaten quill,  
 Wafted from the plain below ;  
 Or the heifer's frequent low ;  
 Or the milkmaid in the grove,  
 Singing of one that died for love.  
 Or when the noontide heats oppress,  
 We will seek the dark recess,  
 Where, in the embowered translucent  
 stream,  
 The cattle shun the sultry beam,  
 And o'er us, on the marge reclined,  
 The drowsy fly her horn shall wind,  
 While echo, from her ancient oak,  
 Shall answer to the woodman's stroke,  
 Or the little peasant's song,  
 Wandering lone the glens among,  
 His artless lip with berries dyed,  
 And feet through ragged shoes descried.

But, oh, when evening's virgin queen  
 Sits on her fringed throne serene,  
 And mingling whispers rising near,  
 Steal on the still reposing ear ;  
 While distant brooks decaying round,  
 Augment the mixed dissolving sound,

And the zephyr flitting by,  
 Whispers mystic harmony,  
 We will seek the woody lane,  
 By the hamlet, on the plain,  
 Where the weary rustic nigh,  
 Shall whistle his wild melody,  
 And the croaking wicket oft  
 Shall echo from the neighbouring croft ;  
 And as we trace the green path lone,  
 With moss and rank weeds overgrown,  
 We will muse on pensive lore,  
 Till the full soul brimming o'er,  
 Shall in our upturned eyes appear,  
 Embodied in a quivering tear ;  
 Or else, serenely silent, sit  
 By the brawling rivulet,  
 Which on its calm unruffled breast,  
 Rears the old mossy arch impressed,  
 That clasps its secret stream of glass ;  
 Half hid in shrubs and waving grass,  
 The wood-nymph's lone secure retreat,  
 Unpressed by fawn or sylvan's feet,  
 We'll watch in Eve's ethereal braid,  
 The rich vermilion slowly fade ;  
 Or catch, faint twinkling from afar,  
 The first glimpse of the eastern star,  
 Fair vesper, mildest lamp of light,  
 That heralds in imperial night :  
 Meanwhile, upon our wondering ear,  
 Shall rise, though low, yet sweetly clear,  
 The distant sounds of pastoral lute,  
 Invoking soft the sober suit  
 Of dimmest darkness—fitting well  
 With love, or sorrow's pensive spell,  
 (So erst did music's silver tone,  
 Wake slumbering chaos on his throne ;)  
 And haply, then, with sudden swell,  
 Shall roar the distant curfew bell,  
 While in the castle's mouldering tower,  
 The hooting owl is heard to pour  
 Her melancholy song, and scare  
 Dull silence brooding in the air.  
 Meanwhile her dusk and slumbering  
 car,  
 Black-suited night drives on from far,  
 And Cynthia's merging from her rear,  
 Arrests the waxing darkness drear,  
 And summons to her silent call  
 Sweeping in their airy pall,  
 The unshrived ghosts, in fairy trance,  
 To join her moonshine morrice-dance ;  
 While around the mystic ring,  
 The shadowy shapes elastic spring.

Then with a passing shriek they fly,  
 Wrapt in mists along the sky,  
 And oft are by the shepherd seen,  
 In his lone night-watch on the green.

Then, hermit, let us turn our feet,  
 To the low Abbey's still retreat,  
 Embowered in the distant glen,  
 Far from the haunts of busy men,  
 Where, as we sit upon the tomb,  
 The glow-worm's light may gild the  
 gloom,

And show to fancy's saddest eye,  
 Where some lost hero's ashes lie.  
 And oh, as through the mouldering arch,  
 With ivy filled and weeping larch,  
 The night gale whispers sadly clear,  
 Speaking dear things to fancy's ear,  
 We'll hold communion with the shade,  
 Of some deep-wailing ruined maid—  
 Or call the ghost of Spenser down,  
 To tell of woe and fortune's frown ;  
 And bid us cast the eye of hope,  
 Beyond this bad world's narrow scope.

Or if these joys to us denied,  
 To linger by the forest's side,  
 Or in the meadow or the wood,  
 Or by the lone romantic flood,  
 Let us in the busy town,  
 When sleep's dull streams the people  
 drown,

Far from drowsy pillows flee,  
 And turn the church's massy key ;  
 Then, as through the painted glass,  
 The moon's pale beams obscurely pass,  
 And darkly on the trophied wall,  
 Her faint ambiguous shadows fall ;  
 Let us, while the faint winds wail,  
 Through the long reluctant aisle,  
 As we pace with reverence meet,  
 Count the echoings of our feet ;  
 While from the tombs, with confessed  
 breath,

Distinct responds the voice of death.  
 If thou, mild sage, wilt condescend,  
 Thus on my footsteps to attend,  
 To thee my lonely lamp shall burn,  
 By fallen Genius' sainted urn !  
 As o'er the scroll of Time I pour,  
 And sagely spell of ancient lore.  
 Till I can rightly guess of all  
 That Plato could to memory ca

And scan the formless views of things,  
Or with old Egypt's fettered kings,  
Arrange the mystic trains that shine  
In night's high philosophic mine ;  
And to thy name shall e'er belong  
The honours of undying song.

~~~~~  
ODE TO THOUGHT.

WRITTEN AT MIDNIGHT.

I.

HENCE away, vindictive Thought !
Thy pictures are of pain ;
The visions through thy dark eye
caught,
They with no gentle charms are
fraught,
So prithee back again.
I would not weep,
I wish to sleep,
Then why, thou busy foe, with me thy
vigils keep ?

II.

Whydost o'er bed and couch recline ?
Is this thy new delight ?
Pale visitant, it is not thine
To keep thy sentry through the mine,
The dark vault of the night :
'Tis thine to die,
While o'er the eye,
The dews of slumber press, and waking
sorrows fly.

III.

Go thou and bide with him who
guides
His bark through lonely sea- ;
And as, reclining on his helm,
Sadly he marks the starry realm,
To him thou mayst bring ease ;
But thou to me
Art misery,
So prithee, prithee plume thy wings and
from my pillow flee.

IV.

And Memory, pray what art thou ?
Art thou of pleasure born ?
Does bliss untainted from thee flow ?
The rose that gems thy pensive brow,

Is it without a thorn ?
With all thy smiles,
And witching wiles,
Yet not unfrequent bitterness thy mourn-
ful sway defiles.

V.

The drowsy night-watch has forgoi
To call the solemn hour ;
Lulled by the winds he slumbers
deep,
While I in vain, capricious sleep,
Invoke thy tardy power ;
And restless lie,
With unclosed eye,
And count the tedious hours as slow they
minute by.

~~~~~  
TO A TAPER.

'Tis midnight.—On the globe dead  
slumber sits,  
And all is silence—in the hour of sleep ;  
Save when the hollow gust, that swells  
by fits,  
In the dark wood roars fearfully and  
deep.  
I wake alone to listen and to weep,  
To watch, my taper, thy pale beacon  
burn ;  
And, as still memory does her vigils keep,  
To think of days that never can return.  
By thy pale ray I raise my languid head,  
My eye surveys the solitary gloom ;  
And the sad meaning tear, unmixed with  
dread,  
Tells thou dost light me to the silent  
tomb.  
Like thee I wane ;—like thine my life's  
last ray  
Will fade in loneliness, unwept, away.

~~~~~  
DESPONDENCY.

YES, I will be over soon.—This sickly
dream
Of life will vanish from my feverish
brain ;
And death my wearied spirit will redeem
From this wild region of unvaried pain.

Yon brook will glide as softly as before,—
 Yon landscape smile,—yon golden harvest grow,—
 Yon sprightly lark on mounting wing will soar,
 When Henry's name is heard no more below.
 I sigh when all my youthful friends caress,
 They laugh in health, and future evils brave;
 Them shall a wife and smiling children bless,
 While I am mouldering in my silent grave.
 God of the just,—Thou gavest the bitter cup;
 I bow to thy behest, and drink it up.

TO CONSUMPTION.

GENTLY, most gently, on thy victim's head,
 Consumption, lay thine hand!—let me decay,
 Like the expiring lamp, unseen, away,
 And softly go to slumber with the dead.
 And if 'tis true what holy men have said,
 That strains angelic oft foretell the day
 Of death, to those good men who fall thy prey,
 O let the aerial music round my bed,
 Dissolving sad in dying symphony,
 Whisper the solemn warning in mine ear;
 That I may bid my weeping friends good-bye,
 Ere I depart upon my journey drear:
 And smiling faintly on the painful past,
 Compose my decent head, and breathe my last.

THE WINTER TRAVELLER.

GOD help thee, Traveller, on thy journey far;
 The wind is bitter keen,—the snow o'erlays [ways,
 The hidden pits, and dangerous howow
 And darkness will involve thee.—No kind star
 To-night will guide thee, Traveller,—and the war

Of winds and elements on thy head will break,
 And in thy agonizing ear the shriek,
 Of spirits howling on their stormy car,
 Will often ring appalling—I portend
 A dismal night—and on my wakeful bed
 Thoughts, Traveller, of thee, will fill my head,
 And him, who rides where wind and waves contend,
 And strives, rude cradled on the seas, to guide
 His lonely bark through the tempestuous tide.

“I AM PLEASED, AND YET I'M SAD.”

I.

WHEN twilight steals along the ground,
 And all the bells are ringing round,
 One, two, three, four, and five;
 I at my study window sit,
 And wrapt in many a musing fit,
 To bliss am all alive.

II.

But though impressions calm and sweet,
 Thrill round my heart a holy heat,
 And I am inly glad;
 The tear-drop stands in either eye,
 And yet I cannot tell thee why,
 I am pleased, and yet I'm sad.

III.

The silvery rack that flies away,
 Like mortal life or pleasure's ray,
 Does that disturb my breast?
 Nay what have I, a studious man,
 To do with life's unstable plan,
 Or pleasure's fading vest?

IV.

Is it that here I must not stop,
 But o'er yon blue hills' woody top,
 Must bend my lonely way?
 Now, surely no, for give but me
 My own fire-side, and I shall be
 At home where'er I stray.

V.

Then is it that yon steeple there,
 With music sweet shall fill the air,
 When thou no more canst hear?
 Oh no! oh no! for then forgiven,
 I shall be with my God in Heaven,
 Released from every fear.

VI.

Then whence it is I cannot tell,
 But there is some mysterious spell
 That holds me when I'm glad;
 And so the tear-drop fills my eye,
 When yet in truth I know not why,
 Or wherefore I am sad.

~~~~~  
SOLITUDE.

It is not that my lot is low,  
 That bids this silent tear to flow;  
 It is not grief that bids me moan,  
 It is that I am all alone.

In woods and glens I love to roam,  
 When the tired hedger hies him home;  
 Or by the woodland pool to rest,  
 When pale the star looks on its breast.

Yet when the silent evening sighs,  
 With hallowed airs and symphonies,  
 My spirit takes another tone,  
 And sighs that it is all alone.

The autumn leaf is sere and dead,  
 It floats upon the water's bed;  
 I would not be a leaf, to die  
 Without recording sorrow's sigh!

The woods and winds, with sudden  
 wall,  
 Tell all the same unvaried tale;  
 I've none to smile when I am free,  
 And when I sigh, to sigh with me.

Yet in my dreams a form I view,  
 That thinks on me and loves me too;  
 I start, and when the vision's flown,  
 I weep that I am all alone.

## ODE TO THE HARVEST MOON.

MOON of harvest, herald mild  
 Of plenty, rustic labour's child,  
 Hail! oh hail! I greet thy beam,  
 As soft it trembles o'er the stream,  
 And gilds the straw-thatched hamlet  
 wide,  
 Where innocence and peace reside;  
 'Tis thou that glad'st with joy the rustic  
 throng,  
 Promptest the tripping dance, th' exila-  
 rating song.

Moon of harvest, I do love  
 O'er the uplands now to rove,  
 While thy modest ray serene  
 Gilds the wide surrounding scene;  
 And to watch thee riding high  
 In the blue vault of the sky,  
 Where no thin vapour intercepts thy  
 ray,  
 But in unclouded majesty thou walkest on  
 thy way.

Pleasing 'tis, O modest moon!  
 Now the night is at her noon,  
 'Neath thy sway to musing lie,  
 While around the zephyrs sigh,  
 Fanning soft the sun-tanned wheat,  
 Ripened by the summer's heat;  
 Picturing all the rustic's joy  
 When boundless plenty greets his  
 eye,

And thinking soon,  
 Oh, modest moon!  
 How many a female eye will roam  
 Along the road,  
 To see the load,  
 The last dear load of harvest home.

Storms and tempests, floods and  
 rains,  
 Stern despoilers of the plains,  
 Hence away, the season flee,  
 Foes to light-heart jollity;  
 May no winds careering high,  
 Drive the clouds along the sky;  
 But may all nature smile with aspect  
 boon,  
 When in the heavens thou show'st thy  
 face, Oh, Harvest Moon!

'Neath yon lowly roof he lies,  
 The husbandman, with sleep-sealed  
 eyes ;  
 He dreams of crowded barns, and  
 round  
 The yard he hears the flail re-  
 sound ;  
 Oh ! may no hurricane destroy  
 His visionary views of joy :  
 God of the winds ! oh, hear his humble  
 prayer,  
 And while the moon of harvest shines,  
 thy blustering whirlwind spare.

Sons of luxury, to you  
 Leave I sleep's dull power to woo :  
 Press ye still the downy bed,  
 While feverish dreams surround your  
 head ;  
 I will seek the woodland glade,  
 Penetrate the thickest shade,  
 Wrapt in contemplation's dreams,  
 Musing high on holy themes,  
     While on the gale  
     Shall softly sail  
 The nightingale's enchanting tune,  
     And oft my eyes  
     Shall grateful rise  
 To thee, the modest Harvest Moon !

~~~~~  
**THE SHIPWRECKED SOLITARY'S
 SONG.**

TO THE NIGHT.

THOU, spirit of the spangled night !
 I woo thee from the watch-tower high,
 Where thou dost sit to guide the bark
 Of lonely mariner.

The winds are whistling o'er the
 wolds,
 The distant main is moaning low ;
 Come, let us sit and weave a song—
 A melancholy song !

Sweet is the scented gale of morn,
 And sweet the noontide's fervid beam,
 But sweeter far the solemn calm
 That marks thy mournful reign.

I've passed here many a lonely year,
 And never human voice have heard :
 I've passed here many a lonely year
 A solitary man.

And I have lingered in the shade,
 From sultry noon's hot beam. And I
 Have knelt before my wicker door,
 To sing my evening song.

And I have hailed the grey morn high,
 On the blue mountain's misty brow,
 And tried to tune my little reed
 To hymns of harmony.

But never could I tune my reed,
 At morn, or noon, or eve, so sweet
 As when upon the ocean shore
 I hailed thy star-beam mild.

The day-spring brings not joy to me,
 The moon it whispers not of peace ;
 But oh ! when darkness robes the heavens,
 My woes are mixed with joy.

And then I talk, and often think
 Aërial voices answer me ;
 And oh ! I am not then alone—
 A solitary man.

And when the blustering winter winds
 Howl in the woods that clothe my
 cave,
 I lay me on my lonely mat,
 And pleasant are my dreams.

And Fancy gives me back my wife ;
 And Fancy gives me back my child ;
 She gives me back my little home,
 And all its placid joys.

Then hateful is the morning hour,
 That calls me from the dream of bliss,
 To find myself still lone, and hear
 The same dull sounds again.

The deep-toned winds, the moaning
 sea,
 The whispering of the boding trees,
 The brook's eternal flow, and oft
 The Condlor's hollow scream.

CLIFTON GROVE.

Lo! in the west, fast fades the lingering
 light,
 And day's last vestige takes its silent
 flight.
 No more is heard the woodman's measured
 stroke
 Which, with the dawn, from yonder dingle
 broke ;
 No more, hoarse clamouring o'er the up-
 lifted head,
 The crows, assembling, seek their wind-
 rock'd bed.
 Stilled is the village hum—the woodland
 sounds
 Have ceased to echo o'er the dewy
 grounds,
 And general silence reigns, save when
 below,
 The murmuring Trent is scarcely heard
 to flow ;
 And save when, swung by 'nighted rustic
 late,
 Oft, on its hinge, rebounds the jarring
 gate :
 Or, when the sheep bell, in the distant
 vale,
 Breathes its wild music on the downy
 gale.
 Now, when the rustic wears the social
 smile,
 Released from day and its attendant toil,
 And draws his household round their
 evening fire,
 And tells the oft-told tales that never
 tire :
 Or, where the town's blue turrets dimly
 rise,
 And manufacture taints the ambient
 skies,
 The pale mechanic leaves the labouring
 loom,
 The air-pent hold, the pestilential room,
 And rushes out, impatient to begin
 The stated course of customary sin :
 Now, now, my solitary way I bend
 Where solemn groves in awful state im-
 pend,
 And cliffs, that boldly rise above the
 plain,
 Bespeak, blest Clifton! thy sublime do-
 main.

Here, lonely wandering o'er the sylvan
 bower,
 I come to pass the meditative hour ;
 To bid awhile the strife of passion cease,
 And woo the calms of solitude and peace.
 And oh ! thou sacred power, who rear'st
 on high
 Thy leafy throne where waving poplars
 sigh !
 Genius of woodland shades ! whose mild
 control
 Steals with resistless witchery to the
 soul,
 Come with thy wonted ardour and in-
 spire
 My glowing bosom with thy hallowed
 fire.
 And thou, too, Fancy ! from thy starry
 sphere,
 Where to the hymning orbs thou lend'st
 thine ear,
 Do thou descend, and bless my ravished
 sight,
 Veiled in soft visions of serene delight.
 At thy command the gale that passes by
 Bears in its whispers mystic harmony.
 Thou wav'st thy wand, and lo ! what
 forms appear !
 On the dark cloud what giant shapes
 career !
 The ghosts of Ossian skim the misty vale,
 And hosts of Sylphids on the moon-beam
 sail.

~~~~~

IN THE MORNING BEFORE  
 DAYBREAK.

YE many-twinkling stars, who yet do  
 hold  
 Your brilliant places in the sable vault  
 Of night's dominions !—Planets, and cen-  
 tral orbs  
 Of other systems !—big as the burning  
 sun,  
 Which lights this nether globe,—yet to  
 our eye,  
 Small as the glow-worm's lamp !—To you  
 I raise  
 My lowly orisons, while all bewildered,  
 My vision strays o'er your ethereal hosts ;  
 Too vast, too boundless, for our narrow  
 mind,

Warped with low prejudices, to unfold,  
And sagely comprehend. Thence higher  
soaring,

Through ye, I raise my solemn thoughts  
to him!

The mighty founder of this wondrous  
maze,

The great Creator! Him! who now  
sublime

Wrapt in the solitary amplitude  
Of boundless space, above the rolling  
spheres

Sits on his silent throne, and meditates.

\*The angelic hosts in their inferior Heaven,  
Hymn to their golden harps his praise  
sublime,

Repeating loud, "The Lord our God is  
great,"

In varied harmonies.—The glorious sounds  
Roll o'er the air serene—The Æolian  
spheres,

Harping along their viewless boundaries,  
Catch the full note, and cry, "The Lord  
is great,"

Responding to the Seraphim.—O'er all,  
From orb to orb, to the remotest verge  
Of the created world, the sound is borne  
Till the whole universe is full of HIM.

Oh! 'tis this heavenly harmony which  
now

In fancy strikes upon my listening ear,  
And thrills my inmost soul. It bids me  
smile

On the vain world, and all its bustling  
cares,

And gives a shadowy glimpse of future  
bliss.

Oh! what is man, when at ambition's  
height,

What even are kings, when balanced in  
the scale

Of these stupendous worlds! Almighty  
God!

Thou, the dread author of these wondrous  
works!

Say, canst thou cast on me, poor passing  
worm,

One look of kind benevolence?—Thou  
canst:

For thou art full of universal love,

And in thy boundless goodness wilt im-  
part

Thy beams as well to me, as to the proud,  
The pageant insects, of a glittering hour.

Oh! when reflecting on these truths  
sublime,

How insignificant do all the joys,  
The gauds, and honours of the world  
appear!

How vain ambition! Why has my wake-  
ful lamp

Outwatched the slow-paced night?—Why  
on the page,

The schoolman's laboured page, have I  
employed

The hours devoted by the world to rest,  
And needful to recruit exhausted nature?

Say, can the voice of narrow Fame repay  
The loss of health? or can the hope of  
glory,

Send a new throb into my languid heart,  
Cool, even now, my feverish, aching  
brow,

Relume the fires of this deep-sunken eye,  
Or paint new colours on this pallid cheek!

Say, foolish one—can that unbodied Fame,  
For which thou barterest health and hap-  
piness,

Say, can it soothe the slumbers of the  
grave?

Give a new zest to bliss? or chase the  
pangs

Of everlasting punishment condign?

Alas! how vain are mortal man's desires!  
How fruitless his pursuits! Eternal God!

Guide thou my footsteps in the way of  
truth,

And oh! assist me so to live on earth,  
That I may die in peace, and claim a  
place

In thy high dwelling.—All but this is  
folly,

The vain illusions of deceitful life.

#### TO THE HERB ROSEMARY.

SWEET scented flower! who 'rt went to  
bloom

On January's front severe,  
And o'er the wintry desert drear

To waft thy waste perfume !  
 Come, thou shalt form my nosegay  
 now,  
 And I will bind thee round my brow ;  
 And as I twine the mournful wreath,  
 I'll weave a melancholy song :  
 And sweet the strain shall be and long,  
 The melody of death.

Come, funeral flower ! who lov'st to dwell  
 With the pale corpse in lonely tomb,  
 And throw across the desert gloom  
 A sweet decaying smell.  
 Come, press my lips, and lie with me  
 Beneath the lowly alder tree,  
 And we will sleep a pleasant sleep,  
 And not a care shall dare intrude,  
 To break the marble solitude  
 So peaceful and so deep.

And hark ! the wind-god, as he flies,  
 Moans hollow in the forest trees,  
 And sailing on the gusty breeze,  
 Mysterious music dies.  
 Sweet flower ! that requiem wild is  
 mine,  
 It warns me to the lonely shrine,  
 The cold turf altar of the dead ;  
 My grave shall be in yon lone spot,  
 Where as I lie, by all forgot,  
 A dying fragrance thou wilt o'er my  
 ashes shed.

#### ODE TO DISAPPOINTMENT.

COME, Disappointment, come !  
 Not in thy terrors clad ;  
 Come in thy meekest, saddest guise ;  
 Thy chastening rod but terrifies  
 The restless and the bad.  
 But I recline  
 Beneath thy shrine,  
 And round my brow resigned, thy peace-  
 ful cypress twine.

Though Fancy flies away  
 Before thy hollow tread,  
 Yet Meditation, in her cell,  
 Hears, with faint eye, the lingering  
 knell,

That tells her hopes are dead ;  
 And though the tear  
 By chance appear,  
 Yet she can smile, and say, " My all was  
 not laid here."

COME, Disappointment, come !  
 Though from Hope's summit hurled,  
 Still, rigid Nurse, thou art forgiven,  
 For thou severe wert sent from heaven  
 To wean me from the world :  
 To turn my eye  
 From vanity,  
 And point to scenes of bliss that never,  
 never die.

What is this passing scene ?  
 A peevish April day !  
 A little sun—a little rain,  
 And then night sweeps along the plain,  
 And all things fade away.  
 Man (soon discussed)  
 Yields up his trust,  
 And all his hopes and fears lie with him  
 in the dust.

O, what is beauty's power ?  
 It flourishes and dies ;  
 Will the cold earth its silence break,  
 To tell how soft, how smooth a cheek  
 Beneath its surface lies ?  
 Mute, mute is all  
 O'er Beauty's fall ;  
 Her praise resounds no more when  
 mantled in her pall.

The most beloved on earth,  
 Not long survives to-day ;  
 So music past is obsolete,  
 And yet 'twas sweet, 'twas passing  
 sweet,  
 But now 'tis gone away.  
 Thus does the shade  
 In memory fade,  
 When in forsaken tomb the form beloved  
 is laid.

Then since this world is vain,  
 And volatile, and fleet,  
 Why should I lay up earthly joys,  
 Where dust corrupts, and moth destroys,  
 And cares and sorrows eat ?

Why fly from ill  
With anxious skill,  
When soon this hand will freeze, this  
throbbing heart be still?

Come, Disappointment, come!  
Thou art not stern to me;  
Sad monitress! I own thy sway,  
A votary sad in early day,  
To thee I bend my knee:  
From sun to sun  
My race will run,  
I only bow, and say, "My God, thy will  
be done!"

~~~~~  
TO AN EARLY PRIMROSE.

MILD offspring of a dark and sullen sire!
Whose modest form, so delicately fine,
Was nursed in whirling storms,
And cradled in the winds.

Thee, when young Spring first questioned
Winter's sway,
And dared the sturdy blusterer to the
fight,
Thee on this bank he threw
To mark his victory.

In this low vale, the promise of the year,
Serene, thou openest to the nipping gale,
Unnoticed and alone,
Thy tender elegance.

So virtue blooms, brought forth amid the
storms

Of chill adversity; in some lone walk
Of life she rears her head,
Obscure and unobserved;

While every bleaching breeze that on her
blows

Chastens her spotless purity of breast,
And hardens her to bear
Serene the ills of life.

~~~~~  
CONCLUDING STANZAS OF THE  
CHRISTIAD.

Thus far have I pursued my solemn  
theme,  
With self-rewarding toil; thus far  
have sung

Of godlike deeds, far loftier than be-  
seem

The lyre which I in early days have  
strung;

And now my spirit's faint, and I have  
hung

The shell, that solaced me in saddest  
hour,

On the dark cypress! and the strings  
which rung

With Jesus' praise, their harpings now  
are o'er,

Or, when the breeze comes by, moan, and  
are heard no more.

And must the harp of Judah sleep  
again?

Shall I no more reanimate the lay?

Oh! Thou who visitest the sons of men,  
Thou who dost listen when the  
humble pray,

One little space prolong my mournful  
day!

One little lapse suspend thy last decree!

I am a youthful traveller in the way,  
And this slight boon would consecrate  
to thee,

Ere I with Death shake hands, and smile  
that I am free!

~~~~~  
SONNET TO THE RIVER TRENT.

WRITTEN ON RECOVERY FROM SICKNESS.

ONCE more, O Trent! along thy pebbly
marge

A pensive invalid, reduced and pale,
From the close sick-room newly let at
large,

Woos to his wan-worn cheek the
pleasant gale.

O! to his ear how musical the tale
Which fills with joy the throble's
little throat:

And all the sounds which on the
fresh breeze sail,

How wildly novel on his senses
float!

It was on this that many a sleepless
night,

As lone, he watched the taper's sickly
gleam

And at his casement heard, with wild
affright,
The owl's dull wing and melancholy
scream,
On this he thought, this, this his sole
desire,
Thus once again to hear the warbling
woodland choir.

~~~~~  
SONNET.

GIVE me a cottage on some Cambrian wild,  
Where, far from cities, I may spend my  
days,  
And, by the beauties of the scene be-  
guiled,  
May pity man's pursuits, and shun his  
ways.  
While on the rock I mark the browsing  
goat,  
List to the mountain-torrent's distant  
noise,  
Or the hoarse bittern's solitary note,  
I shall not want the world's delusive  
joys:  
But with my little scrip, my book, my  
lyre,  
Shall think my lot complete, nor covet  
more;  
And when, with time, shall wane the  
vital fire,  
I'll raise my pillow on the desert shore,  
And lay me down to rest, where the wild  
wave  
Shall make sweet music o'er my lonely  
grave.

~~~~~  
[CHARLES DIBDIN. 1745—1814.

IF 'TIS LOVE TO WISH YOU
NEAR.

IF 'tis love to wish you near,
To tremble when the wind I hear,
Because at sea you floating rove;
If of you to dream at night,
To languish when you're out of sight,—
If this be loving, then I love.

If, when you're gone, to count each hour,
To ask of every tender power

That you may kind and faithful prove
If void of falsehood and deceit,
I feel a pleasure when we meet,—
If this be loving, then I love.

To wish your fortune to partake,
Determined never to forsake,
Though low in poverty we strove;
If, so that me your wife you'd call,
I offer you my little all,—
If this be loving, then I love.

~~~~~  
POOR JACK.

Go, patter to lubbers and swabs, do you  
see,  
'Bout danger, and fear, and the like;  
A tight-water boat and good sea-room  
give me,  
And it a't to a little I'll strike.  
Though the tempest top-gallant mast  
smack smooth should smite,  
And shiver each splinter of wood,  
Clear the deck, stow the yards, and bouse  
every thing tight,  
And under reefed foresail we'll scud:  
Avast! nor don't think me a milksop so  
soft,  
To be taken for trifles aback;  
For they say there's a providence sits up  
aloft,  
To keep watch for the life of poor Jack!

I heard our good chaplain palaver one day  
About souls, heaven, mercy, and such;  
And, my timbers! what lingo he'd coil  
and belay;  
Why, 'twas just all as one as High  
Dutch;  
For he said how a sparrow can't founder,  
d'ye see,  
Without orders that come down below;  
And a many fine things that proved clearly  
to me  
That providence takes us in tow:  
For, says he, do you mind me, let storms  
e'er so oft  
Take the top-sails of sailors aback,  
There's a sweet little cherub that sits up  
aloft,  
To keep watch for the life of poor Jack!

I said to our Poll—for, d'ye see, she  
would cry—

When last we weighed anchor for sea,  
What argues snivelling and piping your  
eye?

Why, what a damned fool you must be!  
Can't you see, the world's wide, and  
there's room for us all,

Both for seamen and lubbers ashore?  
And if to old Davy I should go, friend  
Poll,

You never will hear of me more.  
What then? All's a hazard: come, don't  
be so soft:

Perhaps I may laughing come back;  
For, d'ye see, there's a cherub sits smiling  
aloft,

To keep watch for the life of poor Jack!

D'ye mind me, a sailor should be every  
inch

All as one as a piece of the ship,  
And with her brave the world, not offering  
to flinch,

From the moment the anchor's a-trip.  
As for me, in all weathers, all times,  
sides and ends,

Nought's a trouble from a duty that  
springs,  
For my heart is my Poll's, and my rhino's  
my friend's,

And as for my life, 'tis the king's.  
Even when my time comes, ne'er believe  
me so soft,

As for grief to be taken aback,  
For the same little cherub that sits up  
aloft

Will look out a good berth for poor  
Jack!

### BLOW HIGH, BLOW LOW.

BLOW high, blow low, let tempests tear,  
The main-mast by the board;

My heart, with thoughts of thee, my dear,  
And love well stored,

Shall brave all danger, scorn all fear,  
The roaring winds, the raging sea,

In hopes on shore

To be once more  
Safe moored with thee!

Aloft while mountains high we go,  
The whistling winds that scud along,  
And surges roaring from below,

Shall my signal be,  
To think on thee;

And this shall be my song:  
Blow high, blow low, &c.

And or that night when all the crew

The memory of their former lives  
O'er flowing cans of flip renew,  
And drink their sweethearts and their  
wives,

I'll heave a sigh, and think on thee;

And as the ship rolls on the sea,  
The burden of my song shall be—  
Blow high, blow low, &c.

### LOVELY NAN.

SWEET is the ship that under sail  
Spreads her white bosom to the gale;

Sweet, oh! sweet's the flowing can;  
Sweet to poise the labouring oar,  
That tugs us to our native shore,

When the boatswain pipes the barge to  
man;

Sweet sailing with a favouring breeze;  
But, oh! much sweeter than all these,  
Is Jack's delight—his lovely Nan.

The needle, faithful to the north,  
To shew of constancy the worth,

A curious lesson teaches man;  
The needle, time may rust—a squall  
Capsize the binnacle and all,

Let seamanship do all it can;  
My love in worth shall higher rise:  
Nor time shall rust, nor squalls capsize  
My faith and truth to lovely Nan.

When in the bilboes I was penned  
For serving of a worthless friend,

And every creature from me ran;  
No ship performing quarantine

Was ever so deserted seen;  
None hailed me—woman, child, or  
man:

But though false friendship's sails were  
furl'd,

Though cut adrift by all the world,  
I'd all the world in lovely Nan.



"Who goes there? Stranger, quickly tell."

"A friend" — "The word." "Good night;" "All's well."

Or sailing on the midnight deep,  
When weary messmates soundly sleep,  
The careful watch patrols the deck,  
To guard the ship from foes or wreck:  
And while his thoughts oft homewards veer,

Some friendly voice salutes his ear—

"What cheer? Brother, quickly tell."

"Above"—"Below." "Good night;"  
"All's well."

### THE MAD LOVER'S SONG.

O! take me to your arms, my love,  
For keen the wind doth blow!

O! take me to your arms, my love,  
For bitter is my woe!

She hears me not, she cares not,  
Nor will she list to me;

And here I lie in misery  
Beneath the willow-tree.

I once had gold and silver;  
I thought them without end;

I once had gold and silver;  
I thought I had a friend.

My wealth is lost, my friend is false,  
My love is stolen from me;

And here I lie in misery  
Beneath the willow-tree.

[ANONYMOUS. 1780.]

### HEAVING OF THE LEAD.

FOR England when with favouring gale

Our gallant ship up Channel steered,  
And, scudding under easy sail,

The high blue western land appeared;  
To heave the lead the seaman sprung,  
And to the pilot cheerly sung,

"By the deep—nine!"

And bearing up to gain the port,  
Some well-known object kept in view;

An abbey-tower, the harbour-fort,  
Or beacon to the vessel true;

While oft the lead the seaman flung,  
And to the pilot cheerly sung,

"By the mark—seven!"

And as the much-loved shore we near,  
With transport we behold the roof

Where dwelt a friend or partner dear,  
Of faith and love a matchless proof.

The lead once more the seaman flung,  
And to the watchful pilot sung,

"Quarter less—five!"

Now to her berth the ship draws nigh:

We shorten sail—she feels the tide—

"Stand clear the cable," is the cry—

The anchor's gone; we safely ride.

The watch is set, and through the night

We hear the seaman with delight

Proclaim—"All's well!"

[THOMAS HAYNES BAYLEY. 1797—1839.]

### O! NO! WE NEVER MENTION HIM.

O! no! we never mention him, his  
name is never heard;

My lips are now forbid to speak that  
once familiar word:

From sport to sport they hurry me, to  
banish my regret;

And when they win a smile from me,  
they think that I forget.

They bid me seek in change of scene the  
charms that others see;

But were I in a foreign land, they'd find  
no change in me.

'Tis true that I behold no more the valley  
where we met,

I do not see the hawthorn-tree; but how  
can I forget?

For oh! there are so many things recall  
the past to me,—

The breeze upon the sunny hills, the  
billows of the sea;

The rosy tint that decks the sky before  
the sun is set;—

Ay, every leaf I look upon forbids me to  
forget.

They tell me he is happy now, the gayest  
of the gay ;  
They hint that he forgets me too,—but I  
heed not what they say :  
Perhaps like me he struggles with each  
feeling of regret ;  
But if he loves as I have loved, he never  
can forget.

### HARK! THE CONVENT-BELLS ARE RINGING.

HARK! the convent-bells are ring-  
ing,  
And the nuns are sweetly singing ;  
Holy Virgin, hear our prayer !  
See the novice comes to sever  
Every worldly tie for ever ;  
Take, oh, take her to your care !  
Still radiant gems are shining,  
Her jet-black locks entwining ;  
And her robes around her flowing  
With many tints are glowing,  
But all earthly rays are dim.  
Splendours brighter  
Now invite her,  
While thus we chant our vesper-hymn.

Now the lovely maid is kneeling,  
With uplifted eyes appealing ;  
Holy Virgin, hear our prayer !  
See the abbess, bending o'er her,  
Breathes the sacred vow before her ;  
Take, oh, take her to your care !  
Her form no more possesses  
Those dark luxuriant tresses.  
The solemn words are spoken,  
Each earthly tie is broken,  
And all earthly joys are dim.  
Splendours brighter  
Now invite her,  
While thus we chant our vesper-hymn.

### ISLE OF BEAUTY, FARE THEE WELL.

SHADES of ev'ning close not o'er us,  
Leave our lonely bark awhile ;  
Morn, alas ! will not restore us  
Yonder dim and distant isle.

Still my fancy can discover  
Sunny spots where friends may dwell ;  
Darker shadows round us hover,—  
Isle of Beauty, fare thee well !

'Tis the hour when happy faces  
Smile around the taper's light ;  
Who will fill our vacant places ?  
Who will sing our songs to-night ?  
Through the mist that floats above us  
Faintly sounds the vesper-bell,  
Like a voice from those who love us,  
Breathing fondly, Fare thee well !

When the waves are round me breaking,  
As I pace the deck alone,  
And my eye is vainly seeking  
Some green leaf to rest upon ;  
When on that dear land I ponder,  
Where my old companions dwell,  
Absence makes the heart grow fonder—  
Isle of Beauty, fare thee well !

### THE FIRST GREY HAIR.

THE matron at her mirror, with her  
hand upon her brow,  
Sits gazing on her lovely face—ay, lovely  
even now :  
Why doth she lean upon her hand with  
such a look of care ?  
Why steals that tear across her cheek ?—  
She sees her first grey hair.

Time from her form hath ta'en away but  
little of its grace ;  
His touch of thought hath dignified the  
beauty of her face ;  
Yet she might mingle in the dance where  
maidens gaily trip,  
So bright is still her hazel eye, so beauti-  
ful her lip.

The faded form is often mark'd by sorrow  
more than years ;  
The wrinkle on the cheek may be the  
course of secret tears ;  
The mournful lip may murmur of a love  
it ne'er confest,  
And the dimness of the eye betray a  
heart that cannot rest.

But she hath been a happy wife ;—the  
lover of her youth

May proudly claim the smile that pays  
the trial of his truth ;

A sense of slight—of loneliness—hath  
never banish'd sleep ;

Her life hath been a cloudless one ;—  
then, wherefore doth she weep ?

She look'd upon her raven locks ;—what  
thoughts did they recall ?

Oh ! not of nights when they were  
deck'd for banquet or for ball ;—

They brought back thoughts of early  
youth, e'er she had learnt to check,

With artificial wreaths, the curls that  
sport'd o'er her neck.

She seem'd to feel her mother's hand  
pass lightly through her hair,

And draw it from her brow, to leave a  
kiss of kindness there ;

She seem'd to view her father's smile,  
and feel the playful touch

That sometimes feign'd to steal away the  
curls she prized so much.

And now she sees her first grey hair ! oh,  
deem it not a crime

For her to weep—when she beholds the  
first footmark of Time !

She knows that, one by one, those mute  
mementos will increase,

And steal youth, beauty, strength away,  
till life itself shall cease.

'Tis not the tear of vanity for beauty on  
the wane—

Yet though the blossom may not sigh to  
bud, and bloom again,

It cannot but remember with a feeling of  
regret,

The Spring for ever gone—the Summer  
sun so nearly set.

Ah, Lady ! heed the monitor ! Thy  
mirror tells the truth,

Assume the matron's folded veil, resign  
the wreath of youth ;

Go !—bind it on thy daughter's brow, in  
her thou'lt still look fair ;

'Twere well would all learn wisdom who  
behold the first grey hair !

[WILLIAM ROSCOR. 1753—1831.]

#### ON PARTING WITH HIS BOOKS.

As one, who, destined from his friends to  
part,

Regrets his loss, but hopes again, ere-  
while,

To share their converse and enjoy their  
smile,

And tempers, as he may, afflictions dart ;  
Thus, lov'd associates ! chiefs of elder  
art !

Teachers of wisdom ! who could once  
beguile

My tedious hours, and lighten every toil,  
I now resign you—nor with fainting heart.

For, pass a few short years, or days, or  
hours,

And happier seasons may their dawn un-  
fold,

And all your sacred fellowship restore ;  
When, freed from earth, unlimited its  
powers.

Mind shall with mind direct communion  
hold,

And kindred spirits meet to part no more.



[HERBERT KNOWLES. 1798—1827.]

#### INES WRITTEN IN RICHMOND CHURCHYARD, YORKSHIRE.

"It is good for us to be here ; if thou wilt, let  
us make here three tabernacles ; one for thee,  
and one for Moses, and one for Elias."—Matt.  
xvii. 4.

METHINKS it is good to be here ;  
If thou wilt, let us build—but for whom ?

Nor Elias nor Moses appear,  
But the shadows of eve that encompass  
the gloom,

The abode of the dead and the place of  
the tomb.

Shall we build to Ambition ? oh, no !  
Affrighted, he shrinketh away ;

For, see ! they would pin him below,  
In a small narrow cave, and, begirt with  
cold clay,

To the meanest of reptiles a p  
prey.

To Beauty? ah, no!—she forgets  
 The charms which she wielded before—  
 Nor knows the foul worm that he  
 frets  
 The skin which but yesterday fools could  
 adore,  
 For the smoothness it held, or the tint  
 which it wore.

Shall we build to the purple of Pride—  
 The trappings which dizen the proud?  
 Alas! they are all laid aside;  
 And here's neither dress nor adornment  
 allow'd,  
 But the long winding-sheet and the fringe  
 of the shroud.

To Riches? alas! 'tis in vain;  
 Who hid, in their turn have been hid;  
 The treasures are squandered again;  
 And here in the grave are all metals  
 forbid,  
 But the tinsel that shines on the dark  
 coffin-lid.

To the pleasures which Mirth can  
 afford—  
 The revel, the laugh, and the jeer?  
 Ah! here is a plentiful board!  
 But the guests are all mute as their pitiful  
 cheer,  
 And none but the worm is a reveller here.

Shall we build to Affection and Love?  
 Ah, no! they have wither'd and died,  
 Or fled with the spirit above;  
 Friends, brothers, and sisters, are laid  
 side by side,  
 Yet none have saluted, and none have  
 replied.

Unto Sorrow?—The dead cannot  
 grieve;  
 Not a sob, not a sigh meets mine ear,  
 Which compassion itself could re-  
 lieve!  
 Ah! sweetly they slumber, nor hope,  
 love, nor fear—  
 Peace, peace is the watchward, the only  
 one here!

Unto Death, to whom monarchs must  
 bow?  
 Ah, no! for his empire is known,  
 And here there are trophies enow!  
 Beneath—the cold dead, and around—  
 the dark stone,  
 Are the signs of a Sceptre that none may  
 disown!

The first tabernacle to Hope we will  
 build,  
 And look for the sleepers around us to  
 rise;  
 The second to Faith, which ensures  
 it fulfilled;  
 And the third to the Lamb of the great  
 sacrifice,  
 Who bequeath'd us them both when he  
 rose to the skies.

[REV. CHARLES WOLFE. 1791—1823.]

### THE BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE.

NOT a drum was heard, not a funeral  
 note,  
 As his corse to the rampart we hurried;  
 Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot  
 O'er the grave where our hero ~~we~~  
 buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,  
 The sods with our bayonets turning;  
 By the struggling moonbeam's misty light,  
 And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,  
 Not in sheet nor in shroud we wound  
 him;  
 But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,  
 With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,  
 And we spoke not a word of sorrow;  
 But we steadfastly gazed on the face that  
 was dead,  
 And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought as we hollowed his narrow  
 bed,  
 And smoothed down his lonely pillow,

That the foe and the stranger would tread  
o'er his head,  
And we far away on the billow !

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's  
gone,  
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,—  
But little he'll reck, if they let him sleep  
on  
In the grave where a Briton has laid  
him.

But half our heavy task was done,  
When the clock struck the hour for  
retiring ;  
And we heard the distant and random gun  
That the foe was sullenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,  
From the field of his fame fresh and  
gory ;  
We carved not a line, and we raised not  
a stone—  
But we left him alone with his glory.

~~~~~  
[THOMAS PRINGLE. 1834.]

PLEASANT TEVIOTDALE.

O GENTLE wind, ('tis thus she sings,)
That blowest to the west,
Oh, couldst thou waft me on thy wings
To the land that I love best,
How swiftly o'er the ocean foam
Like a sea-bird I would sail,
And lead my loved one blithely home,
To pleasant Teviotdale !

From spicy groves of Malabar
Thou greet'st me, fragrant breeze,
What time the bright-eyed evening star
Gleams o'er the orange trees ;
Thou com'st to whisper of the rose,
And love-sick nightingale—
But my heart is where the hawthorn
grows,
In pleasant Teviotdale !

Oh that I were by Teviot side,
As, when in Springwood bowers,
I bounded, in my virgin pride,
Like fawn among the flowers ;

When the beauty of the budding trees,
And the cuckoo's vernal tale,
Awoke the young heart's ecstasies,
In pleasant Teviotdale !

Oh that I were where blue-bells grow
On Roxburgh's ferny lea !
Where gowans glent and corn-flowen
blow
Beneath the trysting tree ;
Where blooms the birk upon the hill,
And the wild rose down the vale,
And the primrose peeps by every rill,
In pleasant Teviotdale.

Oh that I were where Cheviot-fells
Rise o'er the uplands grey,
Where moors are bright with heather-
bells,
And broom waves o'er each brae ;
Where larks are singing in the sky,
And milkmaids o'er the pail,
And shepherd swains pipe merrily,
In pleasant Teviotdale !

Oh ! listen to my lay, kind love—
Say, when shall we return
Again to rove by Maxwell grove,
And the links of Wooden-burn ?
Nay, plight thy vow unto me now,
Or my sinking heart will fail—
When I gaze upon thy pallid brow,
Far, far from Teviotdale !

Oh haste aboard ! the favouring wind
Blows briskly from the shore ;
Leave India's dear-bought dross behind
To such as prize it more :
Ah ! what can India's lacs of gold
To withered hearts avail ?
Then haste thee, love, ere hope wax cold,
And hie to Teviotdale.

~~~~~  
[FELICIA HEMANS. 1793—1835.]

#### THE VOICE OF SPRING.

I COME, I come ! ye have called me long,  
I come o'er the mountains with light and  
song ; [earth,  
Ye may trace my step o'er the wakening  
By the winds which tell of the violet's  
birth

By the primrose stars in the shadowy  
grass,  
By the green leaves opening as I pass.

I have breathed on the South, and the  
chestnut-flowers

By thousands have burst from the forest-  
bowers :

And the ancient graves, and the fallen  
fanés,

Are veiled with wreaths on Italian plains.  
—But it is not for me, in my hour of  
bloom,

To speak of the ruin or the tomb !

I have passed o'er the hills of the stormy  
North,

And the larch has hung all his tassels  
forth,

The fisher is out on the sunny sea,  
And the rein-deer bounds through the  
pasture free,

And the pine has a fringe of softer green,  
And the moss looks bright where my step  
has been.

I have sent through the wood-paths a  
gentle sigh,

And called out each rustic of the deep-  
blue sky,

From the night-birds away through the  
starry time,

In the groves of the soft Hesperian  
clime,

To the swan's wild note by the Iceland  
lakes,

When the dark fir-bough into verdure  
breaks.

From the streams and founts I have  
loosed the chain ;

They are sweeping on to the silvery  
main,

They are flashing down from the moun-  
tain-brows,

They are flinging spray on the forest-  
boughs,

They are bursting fresh from their sparry  
caves,

And the earth resounds with the joy of  
waves.

Come forth, O ye children of gladness,  
come !

Where the violets lie may now be your  
home.

Ye of the rose-cheek and dew-bright eye,  
And the bounding footstep, to meet me  
fly,

With the lyre, and the wreath, and the  
joyous lay,

Come forth to the sunshine,—I may not  
stay.

Away from the dwellings of care-worn  
men,

The waters are sparkling in wood and  
glen ;

Away from the chamber and dusky  
hearth,

The young leaves are dancing in breezy  
mirth,

Their light stems thrill to the wild-wood  
strains,

And Youth is abroad in my green do-  
mains.

#### THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

THE breaking waves dash'd high  
On a stern and rock-bound coast ;  
And the woods, against a stormy sky,  
Their giant branches toss'd ;

And the heavy night hung dark,  
The hills and waters o'er,  
When a band of exiles moor'd their bark  
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,  
They, the true-hearted, came ;—  
Not with the roll of the stirring drums,  
And the trumpet that sings of fame ;—

Not as the flying come,  
In silence, and in fear ;—  
They shook the depths of the desert's  
gloom  
With their hymns of lofty cheer.

Amidst the storm they sang :  
Till the stars heard, and the sea ;  
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods  
rang  
To the anthem of the free.

The ocean-eagle soar'd  
From his nest, by the white wave's  
foam,  
And the rocking pines of the forest  
roar'd :—  
Such was their welcome home.

There were men with hoary hair  
Amidst that pilgrim band :  
Why had they come to wither there,  
Away from their childhood's land ?

There was woman's fearless eye,  
Lit by her deep love's truth ;  
There was manhood's brow serenely  
high,  
And the fiery heart of youth.

What sought they thus afar ?  
Bright jewels of the mine ?  
The wealth of seas ? the spoils of  
war ?—  
No—'twas a faith's pure shrine.

Yes, call that holy ground,—  
Which first their brave feet trod !  
They have left unstain'd what there they  
found—  
Freedom to worship God !

#### THE HOMES OF ENGLAND.

THE stately homes of England,  
How beautiful they stand,  
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,  
O'er all the pleasant land !  
The deer across their greensward bound  
Through shade and sunny gleam,  
And the swan glides past them with the  
sound  
Of some rejoicing stream.

The merry homes of England—  
Around their hearths by night,  
What gladsome looks of household love  
Meet in the ruddy light !  
There woman's voice flows forth in  
song,  
Or childhood's tale is told ;  
Or lips move tunefully along  
Some glorious page of old.

The blessed homes of England,  
How softly on their bowers,  
Is laid the holy quietness  
That breathes from Sabbath hours !  
Solemn, yet sweet, the church bells  
chime  
Floats through their woods at morn,  
All other sounds in that still time  
Of breeze and leaf are born.

The cottage homes of England  
By thousands on her plains,  
They are smiling o'er the silvery brooks,  
And round the hamlet fanes.  
Through glowing orchards forth they  
peep,  
Each from its nook of leaves,  
And fearless there the lowly sleep,  
As the bird beneath their eaves.

The free fair homes of England,  
Long, long, in hut and hall,  
May hearts of native proof be reared  
To guard each hallowed wail.  
And green for ever be the groves,  
And bright the flowery sod,  
Where first the child's glad spirit loves  
Its country and its God.

#### THE VOICES OF HOME.

##### *The Forest Sanctuary.*

THE voices of my home !—I hear them  
still !  
They have been with me through the  
dreamy night—  
The blessed household voices, wont to  
fill  
My heart's clear depths with unalloy'd  
delight !  
I hear them still, unchanged :—though  
some from earth  
Are music parted, and the tones of  
mirth—  
Wild, silvery tones, that rang through  
days more bright !  
Have died in others,—yet to me they  
come,  
Singing of boyhood back—the voices of  
my home !

They call me through this hush of  
woods reposing,  
In the gray stillness of the summer  
morn ;  
They wander by when heavy flowers  
are closing,  
And thoughts grow deep, and winds  
and stars are born ;  
Even as a fount's remember'd gushings  
burst  
On the parch'd traveller in his hour of  
thirst,  
E'en thus they haunt me with sweet  
sounds, till worn [say—  
By quenchless longings, to my soul I  
O for the dove's swift wings, that I might  
flee away,—

And find mine ark !—yet whither ?—I  
must bear  
A yearning heart within me to the  
grave. [air—  
I am of those o'er whom a breath of  
just darkening in its course the lake's  
bright wave,  
And sighing through the feathery canes  
—hath power  
To call up shadows, in the silent hour,  
From the dim past, as from a wizard's  
cave !—  
So must it be !—These skies above me  
spread,  
Are they my own soft skies ?—ye rest not  
here, my dead !

#### A FATHER READING THE BIBLE.

'Twas early day, and sunlight stream'd  
Soft through a quiet room,  
That hush'd, but not forsaken, seem'd  
Still, but with nought of gloom.  
For there, serene in happy age,  
Whose hope is from above,  
A father communed with the page  
Of Heaven's recorded love.

Pure fell the beam, and meekly bright,  
On his gray holy hair,  
And touched the page with tenderest  
light,  
As if its shrine were there !

But oh ! that patriarch's aspect shone  
With something lovelier far—  
A radiance all the spirit's own,  
Caught not from sun or star.

Some word of life e'en then had met  
His calm benignant eye ;  
Some ancient promise, breathing yet  
Of immortality !  
Some martyr's prayer, wherein the glow  
Of quenchless faith survives :  
While every feature said—"I know  
That my Redeemer lives !"

And silent stood his children by,  
Hushing their very breath,  
Before the solemn sanctity  
Of thoughts o'ersweeping death.  
Silent—yet did not each young breast  
With love and reverence melt ?  
Oh ! blest be those fair girls, and blest  
That home where God is felt !

#### THE CHILD'S FIRST GRIEF.

"OH ! call my brother back to me !  
I cannot play alone ;  
The summer comes with flower and bee—  
Where is my brother gone ?

"The butterfly is glancing bright  
Across the sunbeam's track ;  
I care not now to chase its flight—  
Oh ! call my brother back !

"The flowers run wild—the flowers we  
sow'd  
Around our garden tree ;  
Our vine is drooping with its load—  
Oh ! call him back to me !"

"He could not hear thy voice, fair child,  
He may not come to thee ;  
The face that once like spring-time  
smiled,  
On earth no more thou'lt see.

"A rose's brief bright life of joy,  
Such unto him was given ;  
Go—thou must play alone, my boy !  
Thy brother is in heaven !"



"And has he left his birds and flowers,  
And must I call in vain?  
And, through the long, long summer  
hours,  
Will he not come again?"

"And by the brook, and in the glade,  
Are all our wanderings o'er?  
Oh, while my brother with me play'd,  
Would I had loved him more!"

### EVENING RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EXILE.

#### *The Forest Sanctuary.*

I SEE a star—eve's firstborn!—in whose  
train  
Past scenes, woods, looks, come back.  
The arrowy spire  
Of the lone cypress, as of wood-girt  
fane,  
Rests dark and still amidst a heaven of  
fire;  
The pine gives forth its odours, and the  
lake  
Gleams like one ruby, and the soft  
winds wake,  
Till every string of nature's solemn  
lyre  
Is touch'd to answer; its most secret  
tone  
Drawn from each tree, for each hath  
whispers all its own.

And hark! another murmur on the  
air,  
Not of the hidden rills, nor quivering  
shades!  
—That is the cataract's, which the  
breezes bear,  
Filling the leafy twilight of the glades  
With hollow surge-like sounds, as from  
the bed  
Of the blue mournful seas, that keep  
the dead:  
But they are far!—the, low sun here  
pervades  
Dim forest-arches, bathing with red gold  
Their stems, till each is made a marvel to  
behold.

Gorgeous, yet full of gloom!—In such  
an hour,  
The vesper-melody of dying bells  
Wanders through Spain, from each gray  
convent's tower  
O'er shining rivers pour'd, and olive-  
dells,  
By every peasant heard, and muleteer,  
And hamlet, round my home:—and I  
am here,  
Living again through all my life's fare-  
wells,  
In these vast woods, where farewell  
ne'er was spoken,  
And sole I lift to Heaven a sad heart—  
yet unbroken!

In such an hour are told the hermit's  
beads;  
With the white sail the seaman's hymn  
floats by:  
Peace be with all! whate'er their vary-  
ing creeds,  
With all that send up holy thoughts on  
high!  
Come to me, boy!—by Guadalquivir's  
vines,  
By every stream of Spain, as day de-  
clines, [sky.  
Man's prayers are mingled in the rosy  
—We, too, will pray; nor yet unheard,  
my child!  
Of Him whose voice we hear at eve amidst  
the wild.

At eve?—oh!—through all hours!—  
from dark dreams oft  
Awakening, I look forth, and learn the  
might  
Of solitude, while thou art breathing  
soft,  
And low, my loved one! on the breast  
of night:  
I look forth on the stars—the shadowy  
sleep  
Of forests—and the lake, whose gloomy  
deep  
Sends up red sparkles to the fire-flies'  
light.  
A lonely world!—ev'n fearful to man's  
thought,  
But for His presence felt, whom here my  
soul hath sought.

## THE SONGS OF OUR FATHERS.

SING them upon the sunny hills,  
 When days are long and bright,  
 And the blue gleam of shining rills  
 Is loveliest to the sight.  
 Sing them along the misty moor,  
 Where ancient hunters roved,  
 And swell them through the torrent's  
 roar—  
 The songs our fathers loved!

The songs their souls rejoiced to hear  
 When harps were in the hall,  
 And each proud note made lance and  
 spear  
 Thrill on the banner'd wall:  
 The songs that through our valleys green,  
 Sent on from age to age,  
 Like his own river's voice, have been  
 The peasant's heritage.

The reaper sings them when the vale  
 Is fill'd with plummy sheaves;  
 The woodman, by the starlight pale  
 Cheer'd homeward through the leaves:  
 And unto them the glancing oars  
 A joyous measure keep,  
 Where the dark rocks that crest our shores  
 Dash back the foaming deep.

So let it be!—a light they shed  
 O'er each old fount and grove;  
 A memory of the gentle dead,  
 A spell of lingering love:  
 Murmuring the names of mighty men,  
 They bid our streams roll on,  
 And link high thoughts to every glen  
 Where valiant deeds were done.

Teach them your children round the  
 hearth,  
 When evening-fires burn clear,  
 And in the fields of harvest mirth,  
 And on the hills of deer!  
 So shall each unforgotten word,  
 When far those loved ones roam,  
 Call back the hearts that once it stirr'd,  
 To childhood's holy home.

The green woods of their native land  
 Shall whisper in the strain,  
 \*The voices of their household band  
 Shall sweetly speak again:

The heathery heights in vision rise  
 Where like the stag they roved—  
 Sing to your sons those melodies,  
 The songs your fathers loved.

## ELYSIUM.

FAIR wert thou, in the dreams  
 Of elder time, thou land of glorious  
 flowers,  
 And summer-winds, and low-toned silvery  
 streams,  
 Dim with the shadows of thy laurel-  
 bowers!  
 Where, as they pass'd, bright hours  
 Left no faint sense of parting, such as  
 clings  
 To earthly love, and joy in loveliest things!

Fair wert thou, with the light  
 On thy blue hills and sleepy waters cast,  
 From purple skies ne'er deepening into  
 night,  
 Yet soft, as if each moment were their  
 last  
 Of glory, fading fast  
 Along the mountains!—but thy golden  
 day  
 Was not as those that warn us of decay.

And ever, through thy shades,  
 A swell of deep Eolian sound went by,  
 From fountain-voices in their secret glades,  
 And low reed-whispers, making sweet  
 reply  
 To summer's breezy sigh!  
 And young leaves trembling to the wind's  
 light breath,  
 Which ne'er had touch'd them with a  
 hue of death!

And the transparent sky  
 Rung as a dome, all thrilling to the strain  
 Of harps that, 'midst the woods, made  
 harmony  
 Solemn and sweet; yet troubling not the  
 brain  
 With dreams and yearnings vain,  
 And dim remembrances, that still draw  
 birth  
 From the bewildering music of the earth.

And who, with silent tread,  
 Moved o'er the plains of waving Asphodel?  
 Who, call'd and sever'd from the countless dead,  
 Amidst the shadowy Amaranth-bowers  
 might dwell,  
 And listen to the swell  
 Of those majestic hymn-notes, and inhale  
 The spirit wandering in th' immortal gale?

They of the sword, whose praise,  
 With the bright wine at nation's feasts,  
 went round!  
 They of the lyre, whose unforgotten lays  
 On the morn's wing had sent their mighty  
 sound,

And in all regions found  
 Their echoes 'midst the mountains!—and  
 become  
 In man's deep heart, as voices of his  
 home!

They of the daring thought!  
 Daring and powerful, yet to dust allied;  
 Whose flight through stars, and seas, and  
 depths had sought  
 The soul's far birth-place—but without a  
 guide!

Sages and seers, who died,  
 And left the world their high mysterious  
 dreams,  
 Born, 'midst the olive-woods by Grecian  
 streams.

But they, of whose abode  
 'Midst her green valleys earth retain'd no  
 trace,  
 Save a flower springing from their burial-  
 sod,  
 A shade of sadness on some kindred face,  
 A void and silent place  
 In some sweet home; thou hadst no  
 wreaths for these,  
 Thou sunny land! with all thy deathless  
 trees!

The peasant, at his door  
 Might sink to die, when vintage-feasts  
 were spread,  
 And songs on every wind! From thy  
 bright shore  
 No lovelier vision floated round his head,  
 Thou wert for nobler dead!

He heard the bounding steps which  
 round him fell,  
 And sigh'd to bid the festal sun farewell!

The slave, whose very tears  
 Were a forbidden luxury, and whose  
 breast  
 Shut up the woes and burning thoughts  
 of years,  
 As in the ashes of an urn compress'd;  
 —He might not be thy guest!  
 No gentle breathings from thy distant  
 sky  
 Came o'er his path, and whisper'd  
 “Liberty!”

Calm, on its leaf-strewn bier,  
 Unlike a gift of nature to decay,  
 Too rose-like still, too beautiful, too dear,  
 The child at rest before its mother lay;  
 E'en so to pass away,  
 With its bright smile!—Elysium! what  
 wert thou,  
 To her, who wept o'er that young slum-  
 berea's brow?

Thou hadst no home, green land!  
 For the fair creature from her bosom  
 gone,  
 With life's first flowers just opening in  
 her hand,  
 And all the lovely thoughts and dreams  
 unknown,  
 Which in its clear eye shone  
 Like the spring's awakening!—but that  
 light was past—  
 —Where went the dew-drop, swept  
 before the blast?

Not where thy soft winds play'd,  
 Not where thy waters lay in glassy  
 sleep!—  
 Fade, with thy bowers, thou land of  
 visions, fade!  
 From thee no voice came o'er the gloomy  
 deep,  
 And bade man cease to weep!  
 Fade, with the amaranth-plain, the  
 myrtle-grove,  
 Which could not yield one hope to  
 sorrowing love!

For the most loved are they,  
Of whom Fame speaks not with her  
clarion-voice  
In regal halls!—the shades o'erhang  
their way,  
The vale, with its deep fountains, is their  
choice,

And gentle hearts rejoice  
Around their steps!—till silently they  
die,  
As a stream shrinks from summer's  
burning eye.

And the world knows not then,  
Not then, nor ever, what pure thoughts  
are fled!  
Yet these are they, that on the souls of  
men  
Come back, when night her folding veil  
hath spread,  
The long-remember'd dead!  
But not with thee might aught save glory  
dwell—  
—Fade, fade away, thou shore of Aspho-  
del!

#### THE TRAVELLER AT THE SOURCE OF THE NILE.

In sunset's light o'er Afric thrown,  
A wanderer proudly stood  
Beside the well-spring, deep and lone,  
Of Egypt's awful flood;  
The cradle of that mighty birth,  
So long a hidden thing to earth.

He heard its life's first murmuring sound,  
A low mysterious tone;  
A music sought, but never found  
By kings and warriors gone;  
He listen'd—and his heart beat high—  
That was the song of victory!

The rapture of a conqueror's mood  
Rush'd burning through his frame,  
The depths of that green solitude  
Its torrents could not tame,  
Though stillness lay, with eve's last  
smile,  
Round those calm fountains of the Nile.

Night came with stars:—across his  
soul

There swept a sudden change,  
Even at the pilgrim's glorious goal,  
A shadow dark and strange,  
Breath'd from the thought, so swift  
to fall  
O'er triumph's hour—And is this all?

No more than this!—what seem'd it  
now

First by that spring to stand?  
A thousand streams of lovelier flow  
Bathed his own mountain land!  
Whence, far o'er waste and ocean  
track,  
Their wild sweet voices call'd him  
back.

They call'd him back to many a glade,  
His childhood's haunt of play,  
Where brightly through the beechen  
shade

Their waters glanced away;  
They call'd him, with their sounding  
waves,  
Back to his fathers' hills and graves.

But darkly mingling with the thought  
Of each familiar scene,  
Rose up a fearful vision, fraught  
With all that lay between;  
The Arab's lance, the desert's gloom,  
The whirling sands, the red simoom!

Where was the glow of power and  
pride?

The spirit born to roam?  
His weary heart within him died  
With yearnings for his home;  
All vainly struggling to repress  
That gush of painful tenderness.

He wept—the stars of Afric's heaven  
Beheld his bursting tears,  
Even on that spot where fate had  
given

The meed of toiling years.  
—Oh happiness! how far we fl  
Thine own sweet paths in search of  
thee!

## CASABIANCA.\*

THE boy stood on the burning deck,  
Whence all but him had fled ;  
The flame that lit the battle's wreck,  
Shone round him o'er the dead.

Yet beautiful and bright he stood,  
As born to rule the storm ;  
A creature of heroic blood,  
A proud, though child-like form.

The flames roll'd on—he would not go,  
Without his father's word ;  
That father, faint in death below,  
His voice no longer heard.

He call'd aloud—" Say, father, say  
If yet my task is done ?"  
He knew not that the chieftain lay  
Unconscious of his son.

" Speak, father !" once again he cried,  
" If I may yet be gone !"  
—And but the booming shots replied,  
And fast the flames roll'd on.

Upon his brow he felt their breath,  
And in his waving hair ;  
And look'd from that lone post of death,  
In still, yet brave despair :

And shouted but once more aloud,  
" My father ! must I stay ?"  
While o'er him fast, through sail and  
shroud  
The wreathing fires made way.

hey wrapt the ship in splendour wild,  
They caught the flag on high,  
And stream'd above the gallant child,  
Like banners in the sky.

There came a burst of thunder sound—  
The boy—oh ! where was he ?  
—Ask of the winds that far around  
With fragments strew'd the sea !

\* Young Casabianca, a boy about thirteen years old, son to the admiral of the Orient, remained at his post (in the battle of the Nile) after the ship had taken fire, and all the guns had been abandoned ; and perished in the explosion of the vessel, when the flames had reached the powder.

With mast, and helm, and pennon fair,  
That well had borne their part—  
But the noblest thing that perish'd there,  
Was that young faithful heart.

## THE TREASURES OF THE DEEP.

WHAT hidest thou in thy treasure-caves  
and cells,  
Thou hollow-sounding and mysterious  
Main :  
—Pale glistening pearls, and rainbow-  
coloured shells,  
Bright things which gleam unrecked of,  
and in vain.  
—Keep, keep thy riches, melancholy Sea !  
We ask not such from thee.

Yet more, the Depths have more ! What  
wealth untold  
Far down, and shining through their still-  
ness lies !  
Thou hast the starry gems, the burning  
gold,  
Won from ten thousand royal Argosies.  
—Sweep o'er thy spoils thou wild and  
wrathful Main !  
Earth claims not these again !

Yet more, the Depths have more ! Thy  
waves have rolled  
Above the cities of a world gone by !  
Sand hath filled up the palaces of old,  
Sea-weed o'ergrown the halls of revelry !  
—Dash o'er them, Ocean ! in thy scornful  
play—  
Man yields them to decay !

Yet more ! the Billows and the Depths  
have more !  
High hearts and brave are gathered to thy  
breast !  
They hear not now the booming waters  
roar,  
The battle-thunders will not break their  
rest :  
—Keep thy red gold and gems, thou  
stormy grave—  
Give back the true and brave !

Give back the lost and lovely! those for whom  
 The place was kept at board and hearth  
 so long,  
 The prayer went up through midnight's  
 breathless gloom,  
 And the vain yearning woke 'midst festal  
 song!  
 Hold fast thy buried isles, thy towers  
 o'erthrown,—  
 But all is not thine own!

To thee the love of woman hath gone  
 down,  
 Dark flow thy tides o'er manhood's noble  
 head,  
 O'er youth's bright locks and beauty's  
 flowery crown;  
 —Yet must thou hear a voice—Restore  
 the Dead!  
 Earth shall reclaim her precious things  
 from thee—  
 Restore the Dead, thou Sea!



### THE VAUDOIS WIFE.

THY voice is in mine ear, beloved!  
 Thy look is in my heart,  
 Thy bosom is my resting-place,  
 And yet I must depart.  
 Earth on my soul is strong—too strong  
 Too precious is its chain,  
 All woven of thy love, dear friend,  
 Yet vain—though mighty—vain:

Thou see'st mine eye grow dim, beloved!  
 Thou see'st my life-blood flow,—  
 Bow to the chastener silently,  
 And calmly let me go!  
 A little while between our hearts  
 The shadowy gulf must lie,  
 Yet have we for their communing  
 Still, still Eternity!

Alas! thy tears are on my cheek,  
 My spirit they detain;  
 I know that from thine agony  
 Is wrung that burning rain.  
 Best, kindest, weep not;—make the pang,  
 The bitter conflict, less—  
 Oh! sad it is, and yet a joy,  
 To feel thy love's excess!

But calm thee! Let the thought of death  
 A solemn peace restore!  
 The voice that must be silent soon  
 Would speak to thee once more,  
 That thou mayst bear its blessing on  
 Through years of after life—  
 A token of consoling love,  
 Even from this hour of strife.

I bless thee for the noble heart,  
 The tender, and the true,  
 Where mine hath found the happiest rest  
 That e'er fond woman's knew;  
 I bless thee, faithful friend and guide,  
 For my own, my treasured share,  
 In the mournful secrets of thy soul,  
 In thy sorrow, in thy prayer.

I bless thee for kind looks and words  
 Showered on my path like dew,  
 For all the love in those deep eyes,  
 A gladness ever new!  
 For the voice which ne'er to mine replied  
 But in kindly tones of cheer;  
 For every spring of happiness  
 My soul hath tasted here!

I bless thee for the last rich boon  
 Won from affection tried.  
 The right to gaze on death with thee,  
 To perish by thy side!  
 And yet more for the glorious hope  
 Even to these moments given—  
 Did not thy spirit ever lift  
 The trust of mine to Heaven!

Now, be thou strong! Oh, knew we not  
 Our path must lead to this?  
 A shadow and a trembling still  
 Were mingled with our bliss!  
 We plighted our young hearts when storms  
 Were dark upon the sky,  
 In full deep knowledge of their task,  
 To suffer and to die!

Be strong! I leave the living voice  
 Of this, my martyr'd blood,  
 With the thousand echoes of the hills,  
 With the torrent's foaming flood,—  
 A spirit 'midst the caves to dwell,  
 A token on the air,  
 To rouse the valiant from repose,  
 The fainting from despair.

Hear it, and bear thou on, my love!  
 Ay, joyously endure!  
 Our mountains must be altars yet,  
 Inviolat and pure;  
 There must our God be worshipp'd still,  
 With the worship of the free:  
 Farewell!—there's but *one* pang in death,  
 One only,—leaving thee!

~~~~~  
 COME HOME.

Come home.

Would I could send my spirit o'er the
 deep,
 Would I could wing it like a bird to
 thee,
 To commune with thy thoughts, to fill thy
 sleep
 With these unwearied words of melody,
 Brother, come home.

Come home.

Come to the hearts that love thee, to the
 eyes
 That beam in brightness but to gladden
 thine;
 Come where fond thoughts like holiest
 incense rise,
 Where cherish'd Memory rears her
 altar's shrine.
 Brother, come home.

Come home.

Come to the hearth-stone of thy earlier
 days,
 Come to the ark, like the o'erwearied
 dove,
 Come with the sunlight of thy heart's
 warm rays,
 Come to the fire-side circle of thy love.
 Brother, come home.

Come home.

It is not home without thee; the lone seat
 Is still unclaim'd where thou wert wont
 to be;
 In every echo of returning feet
 In vain we list for what should herald
 thee.
 Brother, come home.

Come home.

We've nursed for thee the sunny buds of
 spring,
 Watch'd every germ a full-blown
 flow'ret rear,
 Saw o'er their bloom the chilly winter
 bring
 Its icy garlands, and thou art not here.
 Brother, come home.

Come home.

Would I could send my spirit o'er the
 deep,
 Would I could wing it like a bird to
 thee,
 To commune with thy thoughts, to fill thy
 sleep
 With these unwearied words of melody,
 Brother, come home.

~~~~~  
 THE GRAVES OF A HOUSEHOLD.

THEY grew in beauty side by side,  
 They filled one home with glee,  
 Their graves are severed far and wide,  
 By mount, and stream, and sea.  
 The same fond mother bent at night  
 O'er each fair sleeping brow,  
 She had each folded flower in sight—  
 Where are those dreamers now?

One midst the forests of the West,  
 By a dark stream, is laid;  
 The Indian knows his place of rest  
 Far in the cedar shade.  
 The sea, the blue lone sea, hath one,  
 He lies where pearls lie deep,  
 He was the loved of all, yet none  
 O'er his low bed may weep.

One sleeps where southern vines are drest  
 Above the noble slain;  
 He wrapt his colours round his breast  
 On a blood-red field of Spain.  
 And one—o'er her the myrtle showers  
 Its leaves, by soft winds fanned;  
 She faded midst Italian flowers,  
 The last of that bright band.

And, parted thus, they rest—who played  
 Beneath the same green tree,  
 Whose voices mingled as they prayed  
 Around one parent knee!

They that with smiles lit up the hall,  
And cheered with song the hearth,—  
Alas for love, if thou wert all,  
And nought beyond, oh earth !

[ROBERT SOUTHEY. 1774—1843.]

### LOVE.

THEY sin who tell love can die :  
With life all other passions fly,  
All others are but vanity.  
In Heaven ambition cannot dwell,  
Nor avarice in the vaults of Hell :  
Earthly these passions, as of Earth,  
They perish where they have their birth.  
But Love is indestructible ;  
Its holy flame for ever burneth,  
From Heaven it came, to Heaven re-  
turneth.  
Too oft on Earth a troubled guest,  
At times deceived, at times oppress ;  
It here is tried and purified,  
And hath in Heaven its perfect rest.  
It soweth here with toil and care,  
But the harvest-time of Love is there.  
Oh ! when a mother meets on high  
The babe she lost in infancy,  
Hath she not then for pains and fears,  
The day of woe, the anxious night,  
For all her sorrow, all her tears,  
An over-payment of delight ?

### THE LIBRARY.

My days among the dead are pass'd ;  
Around me I behold,  
Where'er these casual eyes are cast,  
The mighty minds of old ;  
My never-failing friends are they  
With whom I converse night and day.

With them I take delight in weal,  
And seek relief in woe ;  
And while I understand and feel  
How much to them I owe,  
My cheeks have often been dedew'd  
With tears of thoughtful gratitude.

My thoughts are with the dead : with them  
I live in long past years,  
Their virtues love, their faults condemn,  
Partake their griefs and fears ;  
And from their sober lessons find  
Instruction with a humble mind.

My hopes are with the dead : anon  
With them my place will be ;  
And I with them shall travel on  
Through all futurity ;  
Yet leaving here a name, I trust,  
Which will not perish in the dust.

### THE HOLLY TREE.

OH Reader ! hast thou ever stood to see  
The Holly Tree ?  
The eye that contemplates it well per-  
ceives  
Its glossy leaves,  
Order'd by an Intelligence so wise,  
As might confound the Atheist's sophis-  
tries.  
Below, a circling fence, its leaves are  
seen  
Wrinkled and keen ;  
No grazing cattle through their prickly  
round  
Can reach to wound ;  
But, as they grow where nothing is to  
fear,  
Smooth and unarm'd the pointless leaves  
appear.

I love to view these things with curious  
eyes,  
And moralize ;  
And in this wisdom of the Holly Tree  
Can emblems see, [rhyme,  
Wherewith perchance to make a pleasant  
One which may profit in the after-time.

Thus, though abroad perchance I might  
appear  
Harsh and austere ; [trude,  
To those, who on my leisure would in-  
Reserved and rude ;—  
Gentle at home amid my friends I'd be,  
Like the high leaves upon the Holly  
Tree.



And should my youth, as youth is apt I  
     know,  
     Some harshness show,  
 All vain asperities I day by day  
     Would wear away,  
 Till the smooth temper of my age should  
     be  
 Like the high leaves up<sup>on</sup> the Holly  
     Tree.

And as when all the summer trees are  
     seen:  
     So bright and green,  
 The Holly leaves a sober hue display  
     Less bright than they;  
 But when the bare and wintry woods we  
     see,  
 What then so cheerful as the Holly Tree?

So serious should my youth appear among  
     The thoughtless throng;  
 So would I seem amid the young and gay,  
     More grave than they;  
 That in my age as cheerful I might be  
 As the green winter of the Holly Tree.

### THE SCENERY OF AMERICA.

*Madoc in Wales.*

    Thy summer woods  
 Are lovely, O my mother Isle! the  
     birch  
 Light bending on thy banks, thy elmy  
     vales,  
 Thy venerable oaks! But there, what  
     forms  
 Of beauty clothed the inlands and the  
     shore!  
 All these in stateliest growth, and mixed  
     with these  
 Dark spreading cedar, and the cypress  
     tall,  
 Its pointed summit waving to the wind  
 Like a long beacon flame; and loveliest  
 Amid a thousand strange and lovely  
     shapes;  
 The lofty palm, that with its nuts sup-  
     plied

Beverage and food; they edged the shore,  
     and crown'd  
 The far-off highland summits, their straight  
     stems  
 Bare without leaf or bough, erect and  
     smooth,  
 Their tresses nodding like a crested helm,  
 The plumage of the grove,  
     Will ye believe  
 The wonders of the ocean? how its shoals  
 Sprung from the wave, like flashing light,  
     took wing,  
 And, twinkling with a silver glitterance,  
 Flew through the air and sunshine? Yet  
     were these  
 To sight less wondrous than the tribe who  
     swam,  
 Following, like fowlers with uplifted eye,  
 Their falling quarry: language cannot  
     paint  
 Their splendid tints; though in blue  
     ocean seen,  
 Blue, darkly, deeply, beautifully blue,  
 In all its rich variety of shades,  
 Suffused with glowing gold.  
     Heaven, too, had there  
 Its wonders: from a deep black heavy-  
     cloud,  
 What shall I say? A shoot, a trunk, an  
     arm,  
 Came down:—yea! like a demon's arm,  
     it seized  
 The waters, Ocean smoked beneath its  
     touch,  
 And rose like dust before the whirlwind's  
     force.  
 But we sail'd onward over tranquil seas,  
 Wafted by airs so exquisitely mild,  
 That even to breathe became an act of  
     will,  
 And sense, and pleasure. Not a cloud by  
     day  
 With purple islanded the dark-blue deep;  
 By night the quiet billows heaved and  
     glanced  
 Under the moon, that heavenly moon! so  
     bright,  
 That many a midnight have I paced the  
     deck,  
 Forgetful of the hours of due repose;  
 Yea, til' the sun in his full majesty  
 Went forth, like God beholding his own  
     works.

## NIGHT IN THE DESERT.

*Thalaba.*

How beautiful is night !  
 A dewy freshness fills the silent  
 air ;  
 No mist obscures, nor cloud, nor speck,  
 nor stain,  
 Breaks the serene of heaven :  
 In full orb'd glory yonder moon  
 divine  
 Rolls through the dark blue depths :  
 Beneath her steady ray  
 The desert-circle spreads,  
 Like the round ocean, girdled with the  
 sky.  
 How beautiful is night !

## THE SOURCE OF THE GANGES.

*The Curse of Kehama.*

NONE hath seen its secret fountain ;  
 But on the top of Merû mountain,  
 Which rises o'er the hills of earth,  
 In light and clouds, it hath its mortal  
 birth.  
 Earth seems that pinnacle to rear  
 Sublime above this worldly sphere,  
 Its cradle, and its altar, and its throne ;  
 And there the new-born river lies  
 Outspread beneath its native skies,  
 As if it there would love to dwell  
 Alone and unapproachable.  
 Soon flowing forward, and resigned  
 To the will of the Creating Mind,  
 It springs at once, with sudden leap,  
 Down from the immeasurable steep ;  
 From rock to rock, with shivering force  
 rebounding,  
 The mighty cataract rushes : heaven  
 around,  
 Like thunder, with the incessant roar  
 resounding,  
 And Merû's summit shaking with the  
 sound.  
 Wide spreads the snowy foam, the spark-  
 ling spray  
 Dances aloft ; and ever there at  
 morning

The earliest sunbeams haste to wing  
 their way,  
 With rainbow wreaths the holy stream  
 adorning :  
 And duly the adoring moon at  
 night  
 Sheds her white glory there,  
 And in the watery air  
 Suspends her halo-crowns of silver light.

## AN EASTERN EVENING.

EVENING comes on : arising from the  
 stream,  
 Homeward the tall flamingo wings his  
 flight ;  
 And where he sails athwart the setting  
 beam,  
 His scarlet plumage glows with deeper  
 light.  
 The watchman, at the wished approach of  
 night,  
 Gladly forsakes the field, where he all  
 day,  
 To scare the winged plunderers from  
 their prey,  
 With shout and sling, on yonder clay-  
 built height,  
 Hath borne the sultry ray.  
 Hark ! at the Golden Palaces,  
 The Bramin strikes the hour.  
 For leagues and leagues around, the  
 brazen sound  
 Rolls through the stillness of departing  
 day,  
 Like thunder far away.

## THE SUBMARINE CITY.

SUCH was the talk they held upon their  
 way,  
 Of him to whose old city they were  
 bound ;  
 And now, upon their journey, many a  
 day  
 Had risen and closed, and many a week  
 gone round,

And many a realm and region had they  
 past,  
 When now the ancient towers appeared  
 at last.  
 Their golden summits, in the noon-day  
 light,  
 Shone o'er the dark green deep that  
 rolled between;  
 For domes, and pinnacles, and spires  
 were seen  
 Peering above the sea,—a mournful  
 sight!  
 Well might the sad beholder ween from  
 thence  
 What works of wonder the devouring  
 wave  
 Had swallowed there, when monuments  
 so brave  
 Bore record of their old magnificence.  
 And on the sandy shore, beside the  
 verge  
 Of ocean, here and there, a rock-hewn  
 fane  
 Resisted in its strength the surf and  
 surge  
 That on their deep foundations beat in  
 vain.  
 In solitude the ancient temples stood,  
 Once resonant with instrument and  
 song,  
 And solemn dance of festive multi-  
 tude;  
 Now as the weary ages pass along,  
 Hearing no voice save of the ocean  
 flood,  
 Which roars for ever on the restless  
 shores;  
 Or, visiting their solitary caves,  
 The lonely sound of winds, that moan  
 around  
 Accordant to the melancholy waves.  
 Wondering, he stood awhile to  
 gaze  
 Upon the works of elder days.  
 The brazen portals open stood,  
 Even as the fearful multitude  
 Had left them, when they fled  
 Before the rising flood.  
 High over-head, sublime,  
 The mighty gateway's storied roof was  
 spread,  
 Dwarfing the puny piles of younger  
 time,

With the deeds of days of yore  
 That ample roof was sculptured o'er,  
 And many a godlike form there met his  
 eye,  
 And many an emblem dark of mystery.  
 Through these wide portals oft had Baly  
 rode  
 Triumphant from his proud abode,  
 When, in his greatness, he bestrode  
 The Aullay, hugest of four-footed  
 kind,  
 The Aullay-horse, that in his force,  
 With elephantine trunk, could bind  
 And lift the elephant, and on the wind  
 Whirl him away, with sway and swing,  
 Even like a pebble from the practised  
 sling.

Those streets which never, since the days  
 of yore,  
 By human footstep had been visited;  
 Those streets which never more  
 A human foot shall tread,  
 Ladurad trod. In sun-light, and sea-  
 green,  
 The thousand palaces were seen  
 Of that proud city whose superb  
 abodes  
 Seemed reared by giants for the im-  
 mortal gods.  
 How silent and how beautiful they  
 stand,  
 Like things of Nature! the eternal  
 rocks  
 Themselves not firmer. Neither hath  
 the sand  
 Drifted within their gates, and choaked  
 their doors,  
 Nor slime defiled their pavements and  
 their floors.  
 Did then the ocean wage  
 His war for love and envy, not in  
 rage,  
 O thou fair city, that he spares thee  
 thus?  
 Art thou Varounin's capital and  
 court,  
 Where all the sea-gods for delight  
 resort,  
 A place too godlike to be held  
 by us,  
 The poor degenerate children of the  
 earth?

So thought Ladurlad, as he looked  
 around,  
 Weening to hear the sound  
 Of Mermaid's shell, and song  
 Of choral throng from some imperial  
 hall,  
 Wherein the immortal powers, at  
 festival,  
 Their high carousals keep.  
 But all is silence dread,  
 Silence profound and dead,  
 The everlasting stillness of the deep.

Through many a solitary street,  
 And silent market-place, and lonely  
 square,  
 Aimed with the mighty curse, behold him  
 fare.  
 And now his feet attain that royal  
 fane  
 Where Baly held of old his awful  
 reign.  
 What once had been the garden spread  
 around,  
 Fair garden, once which wore perpetual  
 green,  
 Where all sweet flowers through all the  
 year were found,  
 And all fair fruits were through all sea-  
 sons seen ;  
 A place of Paradise, where each  
 device  
 Of emulous art with nature strove to  
 vie ;  
 And nature, on her part,  
 Called forth new powers wherewith to  
 vanquish art.  
 The Swerga-God himself, with ca-  
 vious eye,  
 Surveyed those peerless gardens in  
 their prime ;  
 Nor ever did the Lord of Light,  
 Who circles Earth and Heaven upon  
 his way, [sight  
 Behold from eldest time a goodlier  
 Than were the groves which Baly, in his  
 might,  
 Made for his chosen place of solace and  
 delight.

It was a Garden still beyond all  
 price,  
 Even yet it was a place of Para-  
 dise :—

For where the mighty Ocean could not  
 spare,  
 There had he, with his own creation,  
 Sought to repair his work of devasta-  
 tion.  
 And here were coral bowers,  
 And grotts of madrepores, [eye  
 And banks of sponge, as soft and fair to  
 As e'er was mossy bed  
 Whereon the Wood-nymphs lay  
 Their languid limbs in summer's sultry  
 hours.  
 Here, too, were living flowers  
 Which, like a bud compacted,  
 Their purple cups contracted,  
 And now in open blossoms spread,  
 Stretched like green anthers many a seek-  
 ing head.  
 And aborets of jointed stone were  
 there,  
 And plants of fibres fine, as silkworm's  
 thread ; [hair  
 Yea, beautiful as Mermaid's golden  
 Upon the waves dispread :  
 Others that, like the broad bannana  
 growing,  
 Raised their long wrinkled leaves of  
 purple hue,  
 Like streamers wide out-flowing.  
 And whatso'er the depths of Ocean  
 hide [espied,  
 From human eyes, Ladurlad there  
 Trees of the deep, and shrubs and fruits  
 and flowers,  
 As fair as ours.

Wherewith the Sea-nymphs love their  
 locks to braid,  
 When to their father's hall, at  
 festival  
 Repairing, they, in emulous array,  
 Their charms display,  
 To grace the banquet, and the solemn  
 day.

#### THALABA'S HOME IN THE DESERT.

*Thalaba.*

It was the wisdom and the will  
 Heaven,  
 That, in a lonely tent, had cast  
 The lot of Thalaba.

There might his soul develope best  
 Its strengthening energies ;  
 There might he from the world  
 Keep his heart pure and uncontaminate,  
 Till at the written hour he should be  
     found  
 Fit servant of the Lord, without a spot.

Years of his youth, how rapidly ye fled  
 In that beloved solitude !  
 Is the morn fair, and doth the freshening  
     breeze

Flow with cool current o'er his cheek ?  
 Lo ! underneath the broad-leaved sycamore

With lids half-closed he lies,  
 Dreaming of days to come.  
 His dog beside him, in mute blandishment,

Now licks his listless hand ;  
 Now lifts an anxious and expectant eye,  
 Courting the wonted caress.

Or comes the father of the rains  
 From his caves in the uttermost west,  
 Comes he in darkness and storms ?  
 When the blast is loud,  
 When the waters fill

The traveller's tread in the sands,  
 When the pouring shower  
 Streams adown the roof,  
 When the door-curtain hangs in heavier  
     folds,

When the outstrained tent flaps loosely,  
 Within there is the embers' cheerful glow,  
 The sound of the familiar voice,  
 The song that lightens toil,--

Domestic peace and comfort are within.  
 Under the common shelter, on dry sand,  
 The quiet camels ruminant their food ;  
 From Moath pulls the lengthening cord,  
     As patiently the old man  
 Entwines the strong palm-fibres ; by the  
     hearth

The damsel shakes the coffee-grains,  
 That with warm fragrance fill the tent ;  
 And while, with dexterous fingers,  
     Thalaba

Shapes the green basket, haply at his  
     feet

Her favourite kidling gnaws the twig,  
 Forgi en plunderer, for Oneiza's sake !

Or when the winter torrent rolls  
 Down the deep-channelled rain-course,  
     foamingly,

Dark with its mountain spoils,  
 With bare feet pressing the wet sand,  
 There wanders Thalaba,  
 The rushing flow, the flowing roar,  
 Filling his yielded faculties ;  
 A vague, a dizzy, a tumultuous joy.  
 Or lingers it a vernal brook  
 Gleaming o'er yellow sands ?

Beneath the lofty bank reclined,  
 With idle eye he views its little waves,  
 Quietly listening to the quiet flow ;  
 While, in the breathings of the stirring  
     gale,

The tall canes bend above.  
 Floating like streamers on the wind  
 Their lank uplifted leaves.

Nor rich, nor poor, was Moath ; God had  
     given [tent.

Enough, and blest him with a mind content.  
 No heart had gold disquieted his dreams ;  
 But ever round his station he beheld  
 Camels that knew his voice,  
 And home-birds, grouping at Oneiza's  
     call,

And goats that, morn and eve,  
 Came with full udders to the damsel's  
     hand.

Dear child ! the tent beneath whose shade  
 they dwelt

It was her work ; and she had twined  
 His girdle's many hues ;  
 And he had seen his robe  
 Grow in Oneiza's loom.

How often, with a memory-mingled joy  
 Which made her mother live before his  
     sight,

He watched her nimble fingers thread the  
 woof ! [toiled,

Or at the hand-mill, when she knelt and  
 Toast the thin cake on spreading palm,  
 Or fixed it on the glowing oven's side  
 With bare wet arm, and safe dexterity.

'Tis the cool evening hour :  
 The tamarind from the dew  
 Sheathes its young fruit, yet green.  
 Before their tent the mat is spread,  
 The old man's awful voice  
 Intones the holy book.

What it beneath no lamp-illumined dome,  
Its marble walls bedecked with flourished  
truth,

Azure and gold adornment? sinks the  
word [voice,

With deeper influence from the Imam's  
Where in the day of congregation, crowds  
Perform the duty-task?

Their father is their priest,  
The stars of heaven their point of  
prayer,

And the blue firmament  
The glorious temple, where they feel  
The present deity!

Yet through the purple glow of eve  
Shines dimly the white moon.  
The slackened bow, the quiver, the long  
lance,

Rest on the pillar of the tent.  
Knitting light palm-leaves for her brother's  
brow,

The dark-eyed damsel sits;

The old man tranquilly

Up his curled pipe inhales

The tranquillizing herb.

So listen they the reed of Thalaba,

While his skilled fingers modulate

The low, sweet, soothing, melancholy  
tones.

#### HOW THE WATER COMES DOWN AT LODORE.

HERE it comes sparkling,

And there it lies darkling.

Here smoking and frothing,

Its tumult and wrath in,

It hastens along conflicting strong;

Now striking and raging,

As if a war waging,

Its caverns and rocks among.

Rising and leaping,

Sinking and creeping,

Swelling and flinging,

Showering and springing

Eddying and whisking,

Spouting and frisking,

Turning and twisting

Around and around;

Collecting, disjecting,

With endless rebound;

Smiting and fighting,

A sight to delight in,

Confounding, astounding,

Dizzying and deafening the ear with its  
sound.

Receding and speeding,

And shocking and rocking,

And darting and parting,

And threading and spreading,

And whizzing and hissing,

And dripping and skipping,

And brightening and whitening,

And quivering and shivering,

And hitting and splitting,

And shining and twining,

And rattling and battling,

And shaking and quaking,

And pouring and roaring,

And waving and raving,

And tossing and crossing,

And flowing and growing

And running and stunning,

And hurrying and skurrying,

And glittering and flittering,

And gathering and feathering,

And dinning and spinning,

And foaming and roaming,

And dropping and hopping,

And working and jerking,

And guggling and struggling,

And heaving and cleaving,

And thundering and floundering,

And falling and crawling and sprawling,

And driving and riving and striving,

And sprinkling and twinkling and

wrinkling,

And sounding and bounding and

rounding,

And bubbling and troubling and

doubling,

Dividing and gliding and sliding,

And grumbling and rumbling and

tumbling,

And clattering and battering and shat-

tering,

And gleaming and streaming and steam-

ing and beaming,

And rushing and flushing and brushing

and gushing,

And flapping and rapping and clapping

and slapping,

And curling and whirling and purling

and twirling,

Retreating and meeting and beating and sheeting,  
 Delaying and straying and playing and spraying,  
 Advancing and prancing and glancing and dancing,  
 Recoiling, turmoiling, and toiling and boiling,  
 And thumping and plumping and bumping and jumping,  
 And dashing and flashing and splashing and clashing,  
 And so never ending but always descending,  
 Sounds and motions for ever and ever are blending ;  
 All at once, and all o'er, with a mighty uproar,  
 And in this way the water comes down at Lodore.

### THE MIRACLE OF THE ROSES.

THERE dwelt in Bethlehem a Jewish maid,  
 And Zillah was her name, so passing fair  
 That all Judea spake the virgin's praise.  
 He who had seen her eyes' dark radiance,  
 How it revealed her soul, and what a soul  
 Beamed in the mild effulgence, woe to him !  
 For not in solitude, for not in crowds,  
 Might he escape remembrance, nor avoid  
 Her imaged form which followed everywhere,  
 And filled the heart, and fixed the absent eye.  
 Alas for him ! her bosom owned no love  
 Save the strong ardour of religious zeal ;  
 For Zillah upon heaven had centred all  
 Her spirit's deep affections. So for her  
 Her tribe's men sighed in vain, yet revered  
 The obdurate virtue that destroy'd their hopes.

One man there was, a vain and wretched man,  
 Who saw, desired, despaired, and hated her ;

His sensual eye had gloated on her cheek  
 E'en till the flush of angry modesty  
 Gave it new charms, and made him gloat the more.  
 She loathed the man, for Hamuel's eye was bold,  
 And the strong workings of brute selfishness  
 Had moulded his broad features ; and she feared  
 The bitterness of wounded vanity  
 That with a fiendish hue would overcast  
 His faint and lying smile. Nor vain her fear,  
 For Hamuel vowed revenge, and laid a plot  
 Against her virgin fame. He spread abroad  
 Whispers that travel fast, and ill reports  
 That soon obtain belief ; how Zillah's eye,  
 When in the temple heavenward it was raised,  
 Did swim with rapturous zeal, but there were those  
 Who had beheld the enthusiast's melting glance  
 With other feelings filled :—that 'twas a task  
 Of easy sort to play the saint by day  
 Before the public eye, but that all eyes  
 Were closed at night ;—that Zillah's life was foul,  
 Yea, forfeit to the law.

Shame—shame to man,  
 That he should trust so easily the tongue  
 Which stabs another's fame ! The ill report  
 Was heard, repeated, and believed,—and soon,  
 For Hamuel by his well-schemed villany  
 Produced such semblances of guilt,—the maid  
 Was to the fire condemned !

Without the walls  
 There was a barren field ; a place abhorred,  
 For it was there where wretched criminals  
 Received their death ! and there they fixed the stake,

And piled the fuel round, which should  
 consume  
 The injured maid, abandoned, as it  
 seemed,  
 By God and man. The assembled  
 Bethlehemites  
 Beheld the scene, and when they saw the  
 maid  
 Bound to the stake, with what calm  
 holiness  
 She lifted up her patient looks to heaven,  
 They doubted of her guilt.—With other  
 thoughts  
 Stood Hamuel near the pile ; him savage  
 joy  
 Led thitherward, but now within his  
 heart  
 Unwonted feelings stirred, and the first  
 pangs  
 Of wakening guilt, anticipant of hell !  
 The eye of Zillah as it glanced around  
 Fell on the slanderer once, and rested  
 there  
 A moment : like a dagger did it pierce,  
 And struck into his soul a cureless  
 wound.  
 Conscience ! thou God within us ! not in  
 the hour  
 Of triumph dost thou spare the guilty  
 wretch,  
 Not in the hour of infamy and death  
 Forsake the virtuous !—They draw near  
 the stake—  
 They bring the torch !—hold, hold your  
 erring hands !  
 Yet quench the rising flames !—they rise,  
 they spread !  
 They reach the suffering maid ! O God,  
 protect  
 The innocent one !  
 They rose, they spread, they  
 raged ;—  
 The breath of God went forth ; the as-  
 cending fire  
 Beneath its influence bent, and all its  
 flames,  
 In one long lightning-flash concentrating,  
 Darted and blasted Hamuel—him alone !  
 Hark !—what a fearful scream the multi-  
 tude  
 Pour forth !—and yet more miracles ! the  
 stake

Branches and buds, and spreading its  
 green leaves,  
 Embowers and canopies the innocent  
 maid  
 Who there stands glorified ; and roses,  
 then  
 First seen on earth since Paradise was  
 lost,  
 Profusely blossom round her, white and  
 red,  
 In all their rich variety of hues ;  
 And fragrance such as our first parents  
 breathed  
 In Eden, she inhales, vouchsafed to her  
 A presage sure of Paradise regained.

~~~~~  
 HISTORY.

THOU chronicle of crimes ! I read no
 more—
 For I am one who willingly would love
 His fellow kind. O gentle poesy,
 Receive me from the court's polluted
 scenes,
 From dungeon horrors, from the fields of
 war,
 Receive me to your haunts,—that I may
 nurse
 My nature's better feelings, for my soul
 Sicken at man's misdeeds !
 I spake—when lo !
 She stood before me in her majesty,
 Clio, the strong-eyed muse. Upon her
 brow
 Sate a calm anger. Go—young man, she
 cried,
 Sigh among myrtle bowers, and let thy
 soul
 Effuse itself in strains so sorrowful sweet,
 That love-sick maids may weep upon thy
 page
 In most delicious sorrow. Oh shame !
 shame !
 Was it for this I wakened thy young
 mind ?
 Was it for this I made thy swelling heart
 Throb at the deeds of Greece, and thy
 boy's eye
 So kindle when that glorious Spartan
 died ?
 Boy ! boy ! deceive me not ! what if the
 tale

Of murdered millions strike a chilling
 pang,
 What if Tiberius in his island stews,
 And Philip at his beads, alike inspire
 Strong anger and contempt; hast thou
 not risen
 With nobler feelings? with a deeper love
 For freedom? Yes—most righteously thy
 soul
 Loathes the black history of human
 crimes
 And human misery! let that spirit fill
 Thy song, and it shall teach thee, boy!
 to raise
 Strains such as Cato might have deigned
 to hear,
 As Sidney in his hall of bliss may love.

TO WILLIAM WORDSWORTH,

INQUIRING IF I WOULD LIVE OVER
 MY YOUTH AGAIN.

Do I regret the past?
 Would I again live o'er
 The morning hours of life?
 Nay, William, nay, not so!
 In the warm joyaunce of the summer sun
 I do not wish again
 The changeful April day.
 Nay, William, nay, not so!
 Safe havened from the sea
 I would not tempt again
 The uncertain ocean's wrath.
 Praise be to him who made me what I am,
 Other I would not be.
 Why is it pleasant then to sit and talk
 Of days that are no more?
 When in his own dear home
 The traveller rests at last,
 And tells how often in his wanderings
 The thought of those far off
 Has made his eyes o'erflow
 With no unmanly tears;
 Delighted, he recalls
 Through what fair scenes his charmed
 feet have trod.
 But ever when he tells of perils past,
 And troubles now no more,
 His eyes most sparkle, and a readier joy
 Flows rapid to his heart.

No, William, no, I would not live again
 The morning hours of life;
 I would not be again
 The slave of hope and fear;
 I would not learn again
 The wisdom by experience hardly taught
 To me the past presents
 No object for regret;
 To me the present gives
 All cause for full content:—
 The future,—it is now the cheerful noon,
 And on the sunny-smiling fields I gaze
 With eyes alive to joy;
 When the dark night descends,
 My weary lids I willingly shall close,
 Again to wake in light.

TO A BEE.

THOU wert out betimes, thou busy busy
 bee!

As abroad I took my early way,
 Before the cow from her resting place
 Had risen up and left her trace
 On the meadow, with dew so gray,
 I saw thee, thou busy busy bee.

Thou wert working late, thou busy busy
 bee!

After the fall of the cistus flower,
 When the primrose-tree blossom was
 ready to burst,
 I heard thee last, as I saw thee first;
 In the silence of the evening hour,
 I heard thee, thou busy busy bee.

Thou art a miser, thou busy busy bee!
 Late and early at employ;
 Still on thy golden stores intent,
 Thy summer in heaping and hoarding
 is spent,

What thy winter will never enjoy;
 Wise lesson this for me, thou busy busy
 bee!

Little dost thou think, thou busy busy
 bee!

What is the end of thy toil,
 When the latest flowers of the ivy are
 gone
 And all thy work for the year is done,
 Thy master comes for the spoil.
 Woe then for thee, thou busy busy bee!



THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM (SOUTHEY).

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,
Who stood expectant by.—P. 297.

THE OLD MAN'S COMFORTS,
AND HOW HE GAINED THEM.

You are old, Father William, the young
man cried,
The few locks that are left you are
gray ;
You are hale, Father William, a hearty
old man,
Now tell me the reason, I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William
replied,
I remember'd that youth would fly fast,
And abused not my health and my vigour
at first,
That I never might need them at last.

You are old, Father William, the young
man cried,
And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the days that are
gone,
Now tell me the reason, I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William
replied,
I remember'd that youth could not last ;
I thought of the future, whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past.

You are old, Father William, the young
man cried,
And life must be hastening away ;
You are cheerful, and love to converse
upon death !
Now tell me the reason, I pray.

I am cheerful, young man, Father William
replied ;
Let the cause thy attention engage ;
In the days of my youth I remember'd my
God !
And He hath not forgotten my age.

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THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM.

I.

It was a summer evening,  
Old Kaspar's work was done ;  
And he before his cottage door  
Was sitting in the sun,

And by him sported on the green  
His little grandchild **Wilhelmine**.

II.

She saw her brother Peterkin  
Roll something large and round,  
That he beside the rivulet,  
In playing there, had found ;  
He came to ask what he had found,  
That was so large, and smooth, and **round**.

III.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,  
Who stood expectant by ;  
And then the old man shook his **head**,  
And with a natural sigh,  
'Tis some poor fellow's skull, said he,  
Who fell in the great victory.

IV.

I find them in the garden, for  
There's many here about,  
And often when I go to plough,  
The ploughshare turns them out ;  
For many thousand men, said he,  
Were slain in the great victory.

V.

Now tell us what 'twas all about,  
Young Peterkin he cries,  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder-waiting eyes ;  
Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they kill'd each other for.

VI.

It was the English, Kaspar cried,  
That put the French to rout ;  
But what they kill'd each other for,  
I could not well make out.  
But everybody said, quoth he,  
That 'twas a famous victory.

VII.

My father lived at Blenheim then,  
Yon little stream hard by ;  
They burnt his dwelling to the ground,  
And he was forced to fly :  
So with his wife and child he fled,  
Nor had he where to rest his head.

## VIII.

With fire and sword the country round  
Was wasted far and wide,  
And many a childing mother then,  
And new-born infant, died.  
But things like that, you know, must be  
At every famous victory.

## IX.

They say it was a shocking sight,  
After the field was won,  
For many thousand bodies here  
Lay rotting in the sun ;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
After a famous victory.

## X.

Great praise the Duke of Marlbro' won,  
And our good Prince Eugene.—  
Why, 'twas a very wicked thing !  
Said little Wilhelmine.—  
Nay—nay—my little girl, quoth he,  
It was a famous victory.

## XI.

And everybody praised the Duke  
Who such a fight did win.—  
But what good came of it at last ?  
Quoth little Peterkin.—  
Why that I cannot tell, said he,  
But 'twas a famous victory.

## MERCIFUL INFLICTIONS.

*From Thalaba.*

REPINE not, O my son !  
That Heaven hath chastened thee. Be-  
hold this vine,  
I found it a wild tree, whose wanton  
strength  
Hast swoln into irregular twigs  
And bold excrescences,  
And spent itself in leaves and little rings,  
So in the flourish of its outwardness  
Wasting the sap and strength  
That should have given forth fruit ;  
But when I pruned the tree,  
Then it grew temperate in its vain expense  
Of useless leaves, and knotted, as thou  
seest,  
Into these full, clear clusters, to repay  
The hand that wisely wounded it.

Repine not, O my son !  
In wisdom and in mercy Heaven inflicts,  
Like a wise leech, its painful remedies.

THE VOYAGE OF THALAPA  
AND THE DAMSEL.

THEN did the damsel speak again,  
“Wilt thou go on with me ?  
The moon is bright, the sea is calm,  
And I know well the ocean paths ;  
Wilt thou go on with me ?—  
Deliverer ! yes ! thou dost not fear !  
Thou wilt go on with me !”  
“Sail on, sail on !” quoth Thalaba,  
“Sail on, in Allah's name !”

The moon is bright, the sea is calm,  
The little boat rides rapidly  
Across the ocean waves ;  
The line of moonlight on the deep  
Still follows as they voyage on ;  
The winds are motionless ;  
The gentle waters gently part  
In murmurs round the prow.  
He looks above, he looks around,  
The boundless heaven, the boundless sea.  
The crescent moon, the little boat,  
Nought else above, below.

The moon is sunk, a dusky grey  
Spreads o'er the eastern sky,  
The stars grow pale and paler ;—  
Oh beautiful ! the godlike sun  
Is rising o'er the sea !  
Without an oar, without a sail,  
The little boat rides rapidly ;—  
Is that a cloud that skirts the sea ?  
There is no cloud in heaven !  
And nearer now, and darker now—  
It is—it is—the land !  
For yonder are the rocks that rise  
Dark in the reddening morn,  
For loud around their hollow base  
The surges rage and roar.

The little boat rides rapidly,  
And now with shorter toss it heaves  
Upon the heavier swell ;  
And now so near, they see

The shelves and shadows of the cliff,  
And the low-lurking rocks,  
O'er whose black summits, hidden half,  
The shivering billows burst ;—  
And nearer now they feel the breaker's  
spray.

Then spake the damsel, "Yonder is our  
path,  
Beneath the cavern arch.  
Now is the ebb, and till the ocean-flow,  
We cannot over-ride the rocks.  
Go thou, and on the shore  
Perform thy last ablutions, and with prayer  
Strengthen thy heart.—I too have need to  
pray."

She held the helm with steady hand  
Amid the stronger waves;  
Through surge and surf she drove,  
The adventurer leap'd to land.

[CAROLINE BOWLES—MRS. SOUTHEY.]

#### TO A DYING INFANT.

SLEEP, little baby, sleep!  
Not in thy cradle bed,  
Not on thy mother's breast  
Henceforth shall be thy rest,  
But with the quiet dead!

Yes! with the quiet dead,  
Baby, thy rest shall be!  
Oh! many a weary wight,  
Weary of life and light,  
Would fain lie down with thee.

Flee, little tender nursling!  
Flee to thy grassy nest;  
There the first flowers shall blow;  
The first pure flake of snow  
Shall fall upon thy breast.

Peace! peace! the little bosom  
Labours with shortening breath :—  
Peace! peace! that tremulous sigh  
Speaks his departure nigh!  
Those are the damps of death.

I've seen thee in thy beauty,  
A thing all health and glee;  
But never then wert thou  
So beautiful as now,  
Baby, thou seem'st to me!

Thine upturn'd eyes glazed over,  
Like harebells wet with dew;  
Already veiled and hid  
By the convulsed lid,  
Their pupils, darkly blue.

Thy little mouth half open—  
Thy soft lip quivering,  
As if like summer-air,  
Ruffling the rose-leaves, there,  
Thy soul was fluttering.

Mount up, immortal essence!  
Young spirit, haste, depart!—  
And is this death?—Dread thing!  
If such thy visiting,  
How beautiful thou art!

Oh! I could gaze for ever  
Upon thy waxen face;  
So passionless, so pure!  
The little shrine was sure,  
An angel's dwelling-place.

Thou weepest, childless Mother!  
Aye, weep—'twill ease thine heart ;—  
He was thy first-born son,  
Thy first, thine only one,  
'Tis hard from him to part.

'Tis hard to lay thy darling  
Deep in the damp cold earth,  
His empty crib to see,  
His silent nursery,  
Once gladsome with his mirth.

To meet again in slumber,  
His small mouth's rosy kiss;  
Then, waken'd with a start,  
By thine own throbbing heart,  
His twining arms to miss!

To feel (half conscious why)  
A dull, heart-sinking weight,  
Till memory on the soul  
Flashes the painful whole,  
That thou art desolate!

And then, to lie and weep,  
And think the live-long night  
(Feeding thine own distress  
With accurate greediness)  
Of every past delight;

Of all his winning ways,  
 ' His pretty playful smiles,  
 His joy at sight of thee,  
 His tricks, his mimicry,  
 And all his little wiles!

Oh! these are recollections  
 Round mothers' hearts that cling,—  
 That mingle with the tears  
 And smiles of after years,  
 With oft awakening.

But thou wilt then, fond Mother!  
 In after years look back,  
 (Time brings such wondrous easing),  
 With sadness not unpleasing,  
 E'en on this gloomy track.

Thou'lt say, "My first-born blessing,  
 It almost broke my heart,  
 When thou wert forced to go!  
 And yet for thee, I know,  
 'Twas better to depart.

"God took thee in his mercy,  
 A lamb, untask'd, untried.  
 He fought the fight for thee,  
 He won the victory,  
 And thou art sanctified!

"I look around, and see  
 The evil ways of men;  
 And oh! beloved child!  
 I'm more than reconciled  
 To thy departure then.

"The little arms that clasp'd me,  
 The innocent lips that press'd—  
 Would they have been as pure  
 'Till now, as when of yore  
 I lull'd thee on my breast!

"Now, like a dew-drop shrined  
 Within a crystal stone,  
 Thou'rt safe in Heaven, my dove!  
 Safe with the Source of Love,  
 The Everlasting One!

"And when the hour arrives,  
 From flesh that sets me free,  
 Thy spirit may await,  
 The first at Heaven's gate,  
 To meet and welcome me!"

[CHARLES LAMB. 1775—1834.]

### THE OLD FAMILIAR FACES.

I HAVE had playmates, I have had com-  
 panions,  
 In my days of childhood, in my joyful  
 school days,  
 All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

I have been laughing, I have been  
 carousing, [cronies,  
 Drinking late, sitting late, with my bosom  
 All, all are gone, the old familiar faces

I loved a love once, fairest among  
 women;  
 Closed are her doors on me, I must not  
 see her—  
 All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

I have a friend, a kinder friend has no  
 man; [ruptly;—  
 Like an ingrate I left my friend ab-  
 Left him, to muse on the old familiar  
 faces.

Ghost-like I paced round the haunts of  
 my childhood;  
 Earth seem'd a desert I was bound to  
 traverse,  
 Seeking to find the old familiar faces.

Friend of my bosom, thou more than a  
 brother,  
 Why wert not thou born in my father's  
 dwelling,  
 So might we talk of the old familiar  
 faces;—

How some they have died, and some they  
 have left me,  
 And some are taken from me; all are  
 departed;  
 All, all are gone, the old familiar faces.

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 [EARL OF CARLISLE. 1802—1864.]

ON VISITING THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

THERE'S nothing great or bright, thou
 glorious Fall!
 Thou mayst not, to the fancy's sense re-
 call—

The thunder-riven cloud, the lightning's
 leap—
 The stirring of the chambers of the deep—
 Earth's emerald green, and many-tinted
 dyes—
 The fleecy whiteness of the upper skies—
 The tread of armies thickening as they
 come—
 The boom of cannon, and the beat of
 drum—
 The brow of beauty, and the form of
 grace—
 The passion, and the prowess of our
 race—
 The song of Homer in its loftiest hour—
 The unresisted sweep of Roman power—
 Britannia's trident on the azure sea—
 America's young shout of Liberty!
 Oh! may the wars that madden in thy
 deeps
 There spend their rage, nor climb th' en-
 circling steep,
 And till the conflict of thy surges cease,
 The nations on thy banks repose in
 peace.

[EBENEZER ELLIOTT. 1781—1849.]

THE WONDERS OF THE LANE.

STRONG climber of the mountain side,
 Though thou the vale disdain,
 Yet walk with me where hawthorns hide
 The wonders of the lane.
 High o'er the rushy springs of Don
 The stormy gloom is roll'd;
 The moorland hath not yet put on
 His purple, green, and gold.
 But here the titling* spreads his wing,
 Where dewy daisies gleam;
 And here the sun-flower† of the spring
 Burns bright in morning's beam.
 To mountain winds the famish'd fox
 Complains that Sol is slow,
 O'er headlong steep and gushing rocks
 His royal robe to throw.
 But here the lizard seeks the sun,
 Here coils in light the snake;
 And here the fire-tuft‡ hath begun
 Its beauteous nest to make.

* The Hedge Sparrow. † The Dandelion.
 ‡ The Golden-Crested Wren.

Oh, then, while hums the earliest bee,
 Where verdure fires the plain,
 Walk thou with me, and stoop to see
 The glories of the lane!
 For, oh, I love these banks of rock,
 This roof of sky and tree,
 These tufts, where sleeps the gloaming
 clock,
 And wakes the earliest bee!
 As spirits from eternal day
 Look down on earth secure;
 Gaze thou, and wonder, and survey
 A world in miniature;
 A world not scorn'd by Him who made
 Even weakness by his might;
 But solemn in his depth of shade,
 And splendid in his light.
 Light! not alone on clouds afar
 O'er storm-loved mountains spread,
 Or widely-teaching sun and star
 Thy glorious thoughts are read;
 Oh, no! thou art a wondrous book,
 To sky, and sea, and land—
 A page on which the angels look,
 Which insects understand!
 And here, oh, Light! minutely fair,
 Divinely plain and clear,
 Like splinters of a crystal hair,
 Thy bright small hand is here.
 Yon drop-fed lake, six inches wide,
 Is Huron, girt with wood;
 This driplet feeds Missouri's tide—
 And that Niagara's flood.
 What tidings from the Andes brings
 Yon line of liquid light,
 That down from heav'n in madness flings
 The blind foam of its might?
 Do I not hear his thunder roll—
 The roar that ne'er is still?
 'Tis mute as death!—but in my soul
 It roars, and ever will.
 What forests tall of tiniest moss
 Clothe every little stone!
 What pigmy oaks their foliage toss
 O'er pigmy valleys lone! [ledge,
 With shade o'er shade, from ledge to
 Ambitious of the sky,
 They feather o'er the steepest edge
 Of mountains mushroom high.
 Oh, God of marvels! who can tell
 What myriad living things
 On these grey stones unseen may dwell!
 What nations with their kings!

I feel no shock, I hear no groan
 While fate perchance o'erwhelms
 Empires on this subverted stone—
 A hundred ruin'd realms !
 Lo ! in that dot, some mite, like me,
 Impell'd by woe or whim,
 May crawl, some atom cliffs to see—
 A tiny world to him !
 Lo ! while he pauses, and admires
 The work of nature's might,
 Spurn'd by my foot, his world expires,
 And all to him is night !
 Oh, God of terrors ! what are we ?—
 Poor insects, spark'd with thought !
 Thy whisper, Lord, a word from thee,
 Could smite us into nought !
 But shouldst thou wreck our father-land,
 And mix it with the deep,
 Safe in the hollow of thy hand
 Thy little ones would sleep.

THE HAPPY LOT.

BLESS'D is the hearth where daughters
 gird the fire,
 And sons that shall be happier than their
 sire,
 Who sees them crowd around his evening
 chair,
 While love and hope inspire his wordless
 prayer.
 O from their home paternal may they go,
 With little to unlearn, though much to
 know !
 Them, may no poison'd tongue, no evil
 eye,
 Curse for the virtues that refuse to die ;
 The generous heart, the independent
 mind,
 Till truth, like falsehood, leaves a sting
 behind !
 May temperance crown their feast, and
 friendship share !
 May Pity come, Love's sister-spirit, **there** !
 May they shun baseness as they shun the
 grave !
 May they be frugal, pious, humble,
 brave !
 Sweet peace be theirs—the moonlight of
 the breast—
 And occupation, and alternate rest ;

And dear to care and thought the usual
 walk ;
 Theirs be no flower that withers on the
 stalk,
 But roses cropp'd, that shall not bloom in
 vain ;
 And hope's bless'd sun, that sets to rise
 again.
 Be chaste their nuptial bed, their home
 be sweet,
 Their floor resound the tread of little
 feet ;
 Bless'd beyond fear and fate, if bless'd by
 thee,
 And heirs, O Love ! of thine Eternity.

LOVE STRONG IN DEATH.

WE watch'd him, while the moonlight,
 Beneath the shadow'd hill,
 Seem'd dreaming of good angels,
 And all the woods were still.
 The brother of two sisters
 Drew painfully his breath :
 A strange fear had come o'er him,
 For love was strong in death.
 The fire of fatal fever
 Burn'd darkly on his cheek,
 And often to his mother
 He spoke, or tried to speak :
 " I felt, as if from slumber
 I never could awake :
 Oh, Mother, give me something
 To cherish for your sake !
 A cold, dead weight is on me—
 A heavy weight, like lead :
 My hands and feet seem sinking
 Quite through my little bed :
 I am so tired, so weary—
 With weariness I ache :
 Oh, Mother, give me something
 To cherish for your sake !
 Some little token give me,
 Which I may kiss in sleep—
 To make me feel I'm near you,
 And bless you though I weep.
 My sisters say I'm better—
 But, then, their heads they shake :
 Oh, Mother, give me something
 To cherish for your sake !

Why can't I see the poplar,
 The moonlit stream and hill,
 Where, Fanny says, good angels
 Dream, when the woods are still?
 Why can't I see you, Mother?
 I surely am awake :
 Oh, haste ! and give me something
 To cherish for your sake !"
 His little bosom heaves not ;
 The fire hath left his cheek :
 The fine chord—is it broken ?
 The strong chord—could it break ?
 Ah, yes ! the loving spirit
 Hath wing'd his flight away :
 A mother and two sisters
 Look down on lifeless clay.

[JOHN WILSON. 1785—1844.]

THE EVENING CLOUD.

A CLOUD lay cradled near the setting
 sun,
 A gleam of crimson tinged its braided
 snow :
 Long had I watch'd the glory moving on
 O'er the still radiance of the lake below.
 Tranquil its spirit seem'd, and floated
 slow !
 Even in its very motion there was rest :
 While every breath of eve that chanced to
 blow
 Wafted the traveller to the beauteous
 West.
 Emblem, methought, of the departed
 soul !
 To whose white robe the gleam of bliss is
 given ;
 And by the breath of mercy made to roll
 Right onwards to the golden gates of
 Heaven,
 Where, to the eye of faith, it peaceful
 lies,
 And tells to man his glorious destinies.

THE MIDNIGHT OCEAN.

The Isle of Palm.

It is the midnight hour :—the beauteous
 sea,
 Calm as the cloudless heaven, the heaven
 discloses,

While many a sparkling star, in quiet glee,
 Far down within the watery sky reposes.
 As if the Ocean's heart were stirr'd
 With inward life, a sound is heard,
 Like that of dreamer murmuring in his
 sleep ;
 'Tis partly the billow, and partly the air,
 That lies like a garment floating fair
 Above the happy deep.
 The sea, I ween, cannot be fann'd
 By evening freshness from the land,
 For the land it is far away ;
 But God hath will'd that the sky-born
 breeze

In the centre of the loneliest seas
 Should ever sport and play.
 The mighty Moon she sits above,
 Encircled with a zone of love,
 A zone of dim and tender light
 That makes her wakeful eye more bright :
 She seems to shine with a sunny ray,
 And the night looks like a mellow'd day !
 The gracious Mistress of the Main
 Hath now an undisturbed reign,
 And from her silent throne looks down,
 As upon children of her own,
 On the waves that lend their gentle breast
 In gladness for her couch of rest !

MAGDALENE'S HYMN.

The City of the Plague.

THE air of death breathes through our
 souls,
 The dead all round us lie ;
 By day and night the death-bell tolls,
 And says, "Prepare to die."

The face that in the morning sun
 We thought so wond'rous fair,
 Hath faded, ere his course was run,
 Beneath its golden hair.

I see the old man in his grave,
 With thin locks silvery-grey ;
 I see the child's bright tresses wave
 In the cold breath of clay.

The loving ones we loved the best,
 Like music all are gone !
 And the wan moonlight bathes in rest
 Their monumental stone.

But not when the death-prayer is said
The life of life departs ;
The body in the grave is laid,
Its beauty in our hearts.

And holy midnight voices sweet
Like fragrance fill the room,
And happy ghosts with noiseless feet
Come bright'ning from the tomb.

We know who sends the visions bright,
From whose dear side they came !
—We veil our eyes before thy light,
We bless our Saviour's name !

This frame of dust, this feeble breath
The Plague may soon destroy ;
We think on Thee, and feel in death
A deep and awful joy.

Dim is the light of vanish'd years
In the glory yet to come ;
O idle grief ! O foolish tears !
When Jesus calls us home.

Like children for some bauble fair
That weep themselves to rest ;
We part with life—awake ! and there
The jewel in our breast !

SACRED POETRY.

How beautiful is genius when combined
With holiness ! Oh, how divinely sweet
The tones of earthly harp, whose chords
are touch'd

By the soft hand of Piety, and hung
Upon Religion's shrine, there vibrating
With solemn music in the ear of God.
And must the Bard from sacred themes
refrain ?

Sweet were the hymns in patriarchal
days,

That, kneeling in the silence of his tent,
Or on some moonlit hill, the shepherd
pour'd

Unto his heavenly Father. Strains sur-
vive

Erst chanted to the lyre of Israel,
More touching far than ever poet breathed
Amid the Grecian isles, or later times
Have heard in Albion, land of every lay.

Why therefore are ye silent, ye who know
The trance of adoration, and behold
Upon your bended knees the throne of
Heaven,

And Him who sits thereon ? Believe it
not,

That Poetry, in purer days the nurse,
Yea, parent oft of blissful piety,
Should silent keep from service of her
God,

Nor with her summons, loud but silver-
toned,
Startle the guilty dreamer from his sleep,
Bidding him gaze with rapture or with
dread

On regions where the sky forever lies
Bright as the sun himself, and trembling
all

With ravishing music, or where darkness
broods

O'er ghastly shapes, and sounds not to be
borne.

THE THREE SEASONS OF LOVE.

WITH laughter swimming in thine eye,
That told youth's heartfelt revelry ;
And motion changeful as the wing
Of swallow waken'd by the spring ;
With accents blithe as voice of May,
Chanting glad Nature's roundelay ;
Circled by joy, like planet bright,
That smiles 'mid wreaths of dewy light,
Thy image such, in former time,
When thou, just entering on thy prime,
And woman's sense in thee combined
Gently with childhood's simplest mind,
First taught'st my sighing soul to move
With hope towards the heaven of love !

Now years have given my Mary's face
A thoughtful and a quiet grace ;
Though happy still, yet chance distress
Hath left a pensive loveliness ;
Fancy hath tamed her fairy gleams,
And thy heart broods o'er home-born
dreams !

Thy smiles, slow-kindling now and mild,
Shower blessings on a darling child ;
Thy motion slow, and soft thy tread,
As if round thy hush'd infant's bed !

And when thou speak'st, thy melting tone,
That tells thy heart is all my own,
Sounds sweeter from the lapse of years,
With the wife's love, the mother's fears !

By thy glad youth and tranquil prime
Assured, I smile at hoary time ;
For thou art doom'd in age to know,
The calm that wisdom steals from woe ;
The holy pride of high intent,
The glory of a life well spent.
When, earth's affections nearly o'er,
With Peace behind and Faith before,
Thou render'st up again to God,
Untarnish'd by its frail abode,
Thy lustrous soul ; then harp and hymn,
From bands of sister seraphim,
Asleep will lay thee, till thine eye
Open in Immortality.

[HORACE SMITH. 1779—1849.]

ADDRESS TO THE MUMMY IN BELZONI'S EXHIBITION.

AND thou hast walked about (how strange
a story !)

In Thebes's street three thousand years
ago, [glory,
When the Memnonium was in all its
And time had not begun to overthrow
Those temples, palaces, and piles
stupendous,
Of which the very ruins are tremendous !

Speak ! for thou long enough hast acted
dumby ;

Thou hast a tongue, come, let us hear
its tune ;
Thou'rt standing on thy legs above ground,
mummy !

Revisiting the glimpses of the moon.
Not like thin ghosts or disembodied
creatures,
But with thy bones and flesh, and limbs
and features.

Tell us—for doubtless thou canst re-
collect— [fame ?

To whom we should assign the Sphinx's
Was Cheops or Cephrenes architect
Of either Pyramid that bears his name ?

Is Pompey's Pillar really a misnomer ?
Had Thebes a hundred gates, as sung by
Homer ?

Perhaps thou wert a mason, and forbidden
By oath to tell the secrets of thy trade—
Then say, what secret melody was hidden
In Memnon's statue, which at sunrise
played ?

Perhaps thou wert a Priest—if so, my
struggles
Are vain, for priestcraft never owns its
juggles.

Perchance that very hand, now pinioned
flat, [to glass ;
Has hob-a-nobbed with Pharaoh, glass
Or dropped a halfpenny in Homer's hat,
Or doffed thine own to let Queen Dido
pass,
Or held, by Solomon's own invitation,
A torch at the great Temple's dedication.

I need not ask thee if that hand, when
armed,
Has any Roman soldier mauled and
knuckled,
For thou wert dead, and buried, and
embalmed
Ere Romulus and Remus had been
suckled :
Antiquity appears to have begun
Long after thy primeval race was run.

Thou couldst develop, if that withered
tongue

Might tell us what those sightless orbs
have seen,
How the world looked when it was fresh
and young, [green ;
And the great deluge still had left it
Or was it then so old, that history's pages
Contained no record of its early ages ?

Still silent, incommunicative elf !
Art sworn to secrecy ? then keep thy
vows ;

But pry'thee tell us something of thyself,
Reveal the secrets of thy prison-house ;
Since in the world of spirits thou hast
slumbered,
What hast thou seen—what strange
adventures numbered ?

Since first thy form was in this box extended,

We have, above ground, seen some strange mutations;

The Roman empire has begun and ended,
New worlds have risen—we have lost old nations,

And countless kings have into dust been humbled,

Whilst not a fragment of thy flesh has crumbled.

Didst thou not hear the pother o'er thy head,

When the great Persian conqueror, Cambyzes,

Marched armies o'er thy tomb with thundering tread,

O'erthrew Osiris, Orus, Apis, Isis,

And shook the pyramids with fear and wonder,

When the gigantic Memnon fell asunder?

If the tomb's secrets may not be confessed,
The nature of thy private life unfold:

A heart has throbbed beneath that leathern breast,

And tears adown that dusky cheek have roll'd;

Have children climbed those knees and kissed that face?

What was thy name and station, age and race?

Statue of flesh—immortal of the dead!

Imperishable type of evanescence!

Posthumous man, who quit'st thy narrow bed,

And standest undecayed within our presence,

Thou wilt hear nothing till the judgment morning,

When the great trump shall thrill thee with its warning.

Why should this worthless tegument endure,

If its undying guest be lost for ever?

Oh, let us keep the soul embalmed and pure

In living virtue, that, when both must

Although corruption may our frame consume,

The immortal spirit in the skies may bloom.

[ALLAN CUNNINGHAM. 1785—1842.]

THE SUN RISES BRIGHT IN FRANCE.

THE sun rises bright in France,

And fair sets he;

But he has tint the blythe blink he had
In my ain countree.

O it's nae my ain ruin

That saddens aye my e'e,

'But the dear Marie I left ahin',
Wi' sweet bairnies three.

My lanely hearth burn'd bonnie,

An' smiled my ain Marie;

I've left a' my heart behin'
In my ain countree.

The bud comes back to summer,

And the blossom to the bee;

But I'll win back—O never,
To my ain countree.

O I am leal to high Heaven,

Where soon I hope to be,

An' there I'll meet ye a' soon
Frae my ain countree!

A WET SHEET AND A FLOWING SEA.

A ~~wet~~ sheet and a flowing sea,

A wind that follows fast,

And fills the white and rustling sail,

And bends the gallant mast.

And bends the gallant mast, my boys,

While, like the eagle free,

Away the good ship flies, and leaves

Old England on the lee.

Oh, for a soft and gentle wind!

I heard a fair one cry;

But give to me the swelling breeze,

And white waves heaving high.

The white waves heaving high, my lads,

The good ship tight and free,—

The world of waters is our home,

And merry men are we.

THE MAIDEN'S DREAM.

SHE slept, and there was visioned in her sleep
 A hill: above its summit sang the lark—
 She strove to climb it: ocean wide and deep
 Gaped for her feet, where swam a sable bark,
 Mann'd with dread shapes, whose aspects,
 Doure and dark,
 Mocked God's bright image; huge and grim they grew—
 Quenched all the lights of heaven, save one small spark,
 Then seized her—laughing to the bark they drew
 Her shuddering, shrieking—ocean kindled as they flew.

And she was carried to a castle bright.
 A voice said, "Sibyl, here's thy blithe bridegroom!"
 She shrieked—she prayed;—at once the bridal light
 Was quenched, and changed to midnight's funeral gloom.
 She saw swords flash, and many a dancing plume
 Roll on before her; while around her fell
 Increase of darkness, like the hour of doom;
 She felt herself as chained by charm and spell.
 Lo! one to win her came she knew and loved right well.

Right through the darkness down to ocean-flood
 He bore her now: the deep and troubled sea
 Rolled red before her like a surge of blood,
 And wet her feet: she felt it touch her knee—
 She started—waking from her terrors, she
 Let through the room the midnight's dewy air—
 The gentle air, so odorous, fresh, and free,
 Her bosom cooled: she spread her palms and there
 Knelt humble, and to God confessed herself in prayer.

"God of my Fathers! thou who didst upraise
 Their hearts and touched them with heroic fire,
 And madest their deeds the subject of high praise—
 Their daughter's beauty charm the poet's lyre—
 Confirm me in the right—my mind inspire
 With godliness and grace and virtuous might,
 To win this maiden-venture, heavenly sire!
 Chase darkness from me, let me live in light,
 And take those visions dread from thy weak servant's sight."

Even while she prayed, her spirit waxed more meek.
 'Mid snow-white sheets her whiter limbs she threw;
 A moon-beam came, and on her glowing cheek
 Dropt bright, as proud of her diviner hue.
 Sweet sleep its golden mantle o'er her threw,
 And there she lay as innocent and mild
 As unfledged dove or daisy born in dew.
 Fair dreams descending chased off visions wild;
 She stretched in sleep her hand, and on the shadows smiled.

SABBATH MORNING.

DEAR is the hallow'd morn to me,
 When village bells awake the day;
 And, by their sacred minstrelsy,
 Call me from earthly cares away.

And dear to me the winged hour,
 Spent in thy hallow'd courts, O Lord!
 To feel devotion's soothing power,
 And catch the manna of thy word.

And dear to me the loud Amen,
 Which echoes through the blest abode,
 Which swells and sinks, and swells again,
 Dies on the walls, but lives to God.

And dear the rustic harmony,
Sung with the pomp of village art ;
That holy, heavenly melody,
The music of a thankful heart.

In secret I have often pray'd,
And still the anxious tear would fall ;
But on thy sacred altar laid,
The fire descends, and dries them all.

Oft when the world, with iron hands,
Has bound me in its six-days' chain,
This bursts them, like the strong man's
bands,
And lets my spirit loose again.

Then dear to me the Sabbath morn ;
The village bells, the shepherd's voice ;
These oft have found my heart forlorn,
And always bid that heart rejoice.

Go, man of pleasure, strike thy lyre,
Of broken Sabbaths sing the charms ;
Ours be the prophet's car of fire,
That bears us to a Father's arms.

THOU HAST SWORN BY THY GOD.

THOU hast sworn by thy God, my Jeanie,
By that pretty white han' o' thine,
And by all the lowing stars in heaven,
That thou wad aye be mine ;
And I hae sworn by my God, my Jeanie,
And by that kind heart o' thine,
By a' the stars sown thick o'er heaven,
That thou shalt aye be mine.

Then foul fa' the hands that wad loose
sic bands,

An' the heart that wad part sic love ;
But there's nae hand can loose my band,
But the finger o' God above.
Though the wee wee cot maun be my
bield,

And my claitthing e'er so mean,
I wad la me up rich i' the faulds o' luve,
Heaven's armfu' o' my Jean.

Her white arm wad be a pillow for me
Far safer than the down ;

And love wad winnow owre us his kind
kind wings,
And sweetly I'd sleep, an' soun'.
Come here to me, thou lass o' my luve,
Come here, and kneel wi' me,
The morn is fu' o' the presence o' my
God,
And I canna pray but thee.

The morn-wind is sweet 'mang the beds
o' new flowers,
The wee birds sing kindlie an' hie,
Our gude-man leans owre his kale-yard
dyke,
And a blythe auld bodie is he.
The Beuk maun be taen when the carle
comes hame,
Wi' the holie psalmodie,
And thou maun speak o' me to thy God,
And I will speak o' thee.

BONNIE LADY ANN.

THERE'S kames o' honey 'tween my luve's
lips,

An' gowd amang her hair ;
Her breasts are lapt in a holie veil,
Nae mortal een keek there.

What lips dare kiss, or what hand dare
touch,

Or what arm o' luve dare span
The honey lips, the creamy loof,
Or the waist o' Lady Ann ?

She kisses the lips o' her bonnie red rose,
Wat wi' the blobs o' dew ;

But nae gentle lip nor simple lip
Maun touch her Ladie mou' ;
But a broidered belt wi' a buckle o' gowd
Her jimpy waist maun span ;
O she's an armfu' fit for heaven,
My bonnie Lady Ann !

Her bower casement is latticed wi'
flowers,

Tied up wi' silver thread,
An' comely she sits in the midst,
Men's longing een to feed.

She waves the ringlets frae her cheeks,
Wi' her milky milky han',
An' her cheeks seem touched wi' the
finger o' God ;
My bonnie Lady Ann !

The morning cloud is tassell'd wi' gowd,
 Like my luv's broider'd cap,
 An' on the mantle which my luv wears
 Are monie a gowden drap.
 Her bonnie ee bree's a holie arch,
 Cast by no earthly han',
 An' the breath o' God's atween the lips
 O' my bonnie Lady Ann !

I am her father's gardener lad,
 And poor poor is my fa' ;
 My auld mither gets my wee wee fee,
 Wi' fatherless bairnies twa.
 My Lady comes, my Lady goes
 Wi' a fu' an' kindly han' ; [luve,
 O the blessing o' God maun mix wi' my
 An' fa' on Lady Ann !

SHE'S GONE TO DWELL IN HEAVEN.

SHE'S gone to dwell in heaven, my lassie,
 She's gone to dwell in heaven :
 Ye're owre pure, quo' the voice o' God,
 For dwelling out o' heaven !

O what'll she do in heaven, my lassie ?
 O what'll she do in heaven ?
 She'll mix her ain thoughts wi' angels'
 sangs,
 An' make them mair meet for heaven.

She was beloved by a', my lassie,
 She was beloved by a' ;
 But an angel fell in love wi' her,
 An' took her frae us a'.

Low there thou lies, my lassie,
 Low there thou lies ;
 A bonnier form ne'er went to the yird,
 Nor frae it will arise !

Fu' soon I'll follow thee, my lassie,
 Fu' soon I'll follow thee ;
 Thou left me nought to covet ahin',
 But took gudeness' itself wi' thee.

I looked on thy death-cold face, my
 lassie,
 I looked on thy death-cold face ;
 Thou seemed a lily new cut i' the bud,
 An' fading in its place.

I looked on thy death-shut eye, my lassie,
 I looked on thy death-shut eye ;
 An' a lovelier light in the brow of heaven
 Fell time shall ne'er destroy.

Thy lips were ruddy and calm, my lassie,
 Thy lips were ruddy and calm ;
 But gone was the holy breath o' heaven
 To sing the evening psalm.

There's naught but dust now mine, lassie,
 There's naught but dust now mine ;
 My soul's wi' thee i' the cauld, cauld grave,
 An' why should I stay behin' ?

[HARTLEY COLERIDGE. 1796—1849.]

SHE IS NOT FAIR.

SHE is not fair to outward view,
 As many maidens be ;
 Her loveliness I never knew
 Until she smiled on me.
 Oh, then I saw her eye was bright,
 A well of love, a spring of light.

But now her looks are coy and cold—
 To mine they ne'er reply ;
 And yet I cease not to behold
 The love-light in her eye :
 Her very frowns are sweeter far
 Than smiles of other maidens are.

THE FIRST MAN.

WHAT was't awakened first the untried
 ear
 Of that sole man who was all human
 kind ?
 Was it the gladsome welcome of the
 wind,
 Stirring the leaves that never yet were
 sere ?
 The four mellifluous streams which flowed
 so near,
 Their lulling murmurs all in one com-
 bined ?
 The note of bird unnamed ? The startled
 hind
 Bursting the brake,—in wonder, not in
 fear
 Of her new lord ? Or did the holy ground

Send forth mysterious melody to greet
The gracious pressure of immaculate feet ?
Did viewless seraphs rustle all around,
Making sweet music out of air as sweet ?
Or his own voice awake him with its
sound ?

~~~~~  
[BERNARD BARTON. 1784—1849.]

### TO THE EVENING PRIMROSE.

Fair flower, that shunn'st the glare of  
day,  
Yet lov'st to open, meekly bold,  
To evening's hues of sober grey  
Thy cup of paly gold ;—

Be thine the offering owing long  
To thee, and to this pensive hour,  
Of one brief tributary song,  
Though transient as thy flower.

I love to watch at silent eve,  
Thy scattered blossoms' lonely light,  
And have my inmost heart receive  
The influence of that sight.

I love at such an hour to mark  
Their beauty greet the night-breeze  
chill,  
And shine, mid shadows gathering dark,  
The garden's glory still.

For such, 'tis sweet to think the while,  
When cares and griefs the breast in-  
vade,  
Is friendship's animating smile  
In sorrow's dark'ning shade.

Thus it bursts forth, like thy pale cup  
Glist'ning amid its dewy tears,  
And bears the sinking spirit up  
Amid its chilling fears.

But still more animating far,  
If meek Religion's eye may trace,  
Even in thy glimm'ring earth-born star,  
The holier hope of Grace.

The hope—that as thy beauteous bloom  
Expands to glad the close of day,  
So through the shadows of the tomb  
May break forth Mercy's ray.

[JOANNA BAILLIE. 1762—1851.]

### THE CHOUGH AND CROW.

THE Chough and Crow to roost are gone—  
The owl sits on the tree—  
The hush'd winds wail with feeble moan,  
Like infant charity.  
The wild fire dances o'er the fen—  
The red star sheds its ray ;  
Uprouse ye then, my merry men,  
It is our op'ning day.

Both child and nurse are fast asleep,  
And clos'd is ev'ry flower ;  
And winking tapers faintly peep,  
High from my lady's bower.  
Bewilder'd hind with shorten'd ken,  
Shrink on their murky way :  
Uprouse ye then, my merry men,  
It is our op'ning day.

Nor board, nor garner own we now,  
Nor roof, nor latched door,  
Nor kind mate bound by holy vow  
To bless a good man's store.  
Noon lulls us in a gloomy den,  
And night is grown our day :  
Uprouse ye then, my merry men,  
And use it as we may.

### THE HIGHLAND SHEPHERD.

~~~~~  
THE gowan glitters on the sward,
The lavrock's in the sky,
And Colley in my plaid keeps ward,
And time is passing by.
Oh, no ! sad and slow !
I hear no welcome sound,
The shadow of our trysting bush,
It wears so slowly round.

My sheep bells tinkle frae the west,
My lambs are bleating near ;
But still the sound that I lo'e best,
Alack ! I canna hear.
Oh, no ! sad and slow !
The shadow lingers still,
And like a lanely ghaist I stand,
And croon upon the hill.

I hear below the water roar,
The mill wi' clacking din,

And Luckey scolding frae her door,
To bring the bairnies in.
Oh, no! sad and slow!
These are nae sounds for me,
The shadow of our trysting bush,
It creeps sae drcarily.

I coft yestreen, frae Chapman Tam,
A snood of bonny blue,
And promised when our trysting cam',
To tie it round her brow!
Oh, no! sad and slow!
The time it winna pass:
The shadow of that weary thorn
Is tether'd on the grass.

O, now I see her on the way,
She's past the witches' knowe,
She's climbing up the brownie's brae;
My heart is in a lowe.
Oh, no! 'tis not so!
'Tis glamrie I ha'e seen!
The shadow of that hawthorn bush
Will move nae mair till e'en.

~~~~~  
[THE REV. GEORGE CROLY. 1780—1860.]

#### DOMESTIC LOVE.

O! LOVE of loves!—to thy white hand  
is given  
Of earthly happiness the golden key.  
Thine are the joyous hours of winter's  
even,  
When the babes cling around their  
father's knee;  
And thine the voice, that, on the mid-  
night sea,  
Melts the rude mariner with thoughts  
of home, [to see.  
Peopling the gloom with all he longs  
Spirit! I've built a shrine; and thou  
hast come  
And on its altar closed—forever closed  
thy plume.

#### CUPID CARRYING PROVISIONS.

~~~~~  
THERE was once a gentle time
When the world was in its prime;
And every day was holiday,
And every month was lovely May.

Cupid then had but to go
With his purple wings and bow;
And in blossomed vale and grove
Every shepherd knelt to love.

Then a rosy, dimpled cheek,
And a blue eye, fond and meek;
And a ringlet-wreathen brow,
Like hyacinths on a bed of snow;
And a low voice, silver sweet,
From a lip without deceit;
Only those the hearts could move
Of the simple swains to love.

But that time is gone and past,
Can the summer always last?
And the swains are wiser grown,
And the heart is turned to stone,
And the maiden's rose may wither,
Cupid's fled, no man knows whither.
But another Cupid's come,
With a brow of care and gloom:
Fixed upon the earthly mould,
Thinking of the sullen gold;
In his hand the bow no more,
At his back the household store,
That the bridal gold must buy:
Useless now the smile and sigh:
But he wears the pinion still,
Flying at the sight of ill.

Oh, for the old true-love time,
When the world was in its prime!

~~~~~  
[W. SMYTH. 1766—1849.]

#### THE SOLDIER.

WHAT dreaming drone was ever blest,  
By thinking of the morrow?  
To-day be mine—I leave the rest  
To all the fools of sorrow;  
Give me the mind that mocks at care,  
The heart, its own defender;  
The spirits that are light as air,  
And never beat surrender.

On comes the foe—to arms—to arms—  
We meet—'tis death or glory;  
'Tis victory in all her charms,  
Or fame in Britain's story;

Deaf native land ! thy fortunes frown,  
And ruffians would enslave thee ;  
Thou land of honour and renown,  
Who would not die to save thee ?

'Tis you, 'tis I, that meets the ball ;  
And me it better pleases  
In battle with the brave to fall,  
Than die of cold diseases ;  
Than drivel on in elbow-chair  
With saws and tales unheeded,  
A tottering thing of aches and care,  
Nor longer loved nor needed.

But thou—dark is thy flowing hair,  
Thy eye with fire is streaming,  
And o'er thy cheek, thy looks, thine air,  
Health sits in triumph beaming ;  
Then, brother soldier, fill the wine,  
Fill high the wine to beauty ;  
I love, friendship, honour, all are thine,  
Thy country and thy duty.

~~~~~  
[WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES. 1762—1850.]

THE CLIFF.

As slow I climb the cliff's ascending side,
Much musing on the track of terror
past,
When o'er the dark wave rode the
howling blast,
Pleased I look back, and view the tran-
quil tide
That laves the pebbled shores ; and now
the beam
Of evening smiles on the grey battle,
ment,
And yon forsaken tow'r that time has
rent :
The lifted oar far off with silver gleam
Is touched, and the hushed billows seem
to sleep.
Soothed by the scene e'en thus on sor-
row's breast
A kindred stillness steals, and bids her
rest ;
Whilst sad airs stilly sigh along the deep,
Like melodies that mourn upon the lyre,
Waked by the breeze, and as they mourn,
expire.

BAMBOROUGH CASTLE.

YE holy tow'rs that shade the wave-worn
steep,
Long may ye rear your aged brows
sublime, [time
Though hurrying silent by, relentless
Assail you, and the wintry whirlwind
sweep.
For, far from blazing grandeur's crowded
halls,
Here Charity has fixed her chosen seat ;
Oft listening tearful when the wild
winds beat
With hollow bodings round your ancient
walls ;
And Pity, at the dark and stormy hour
Of midnight, when the moon is hid on
high,
Keeps her lone watch upon the topmost
tow'r,
And turns her ear to each expiring cry,
Blest if her aid some fainting wretch
might save,
And snatch him cold and speechless from
the grave.

EVENING.

~~~~~  
EVENING, as slow thy placid shades  
descend,  
Veiling with gentlest touch the land-  
scape still,  
The lonely battlement, and farthest hill  
And wood—I think of those that have no  
friend :  
Who now perhaps by melancholy led,  
From the broad blaze of day, where  
pleasure flaunts,  
Retiring, wander mid thy lonely haunts  
Unseen, and mark the tints that o'er thy  
bed  
Hang lovely ; oft to musing Fancy's eye  
Presenting fairy vales, where the tired  
mind  
Might rest, beyond the murmurs of  
mankind,  
Nor hear the hourly moans of misery.  
Ah ! beauteous views, that Hope's fair  
gleams the while  
Should smile like you, and perish as they  
smile !

## DOVER CLIFFS.

ON these white cliffs, that calm above the  
 flood  
 Uplift their shadowy heads, and at their  
 feet  
 Scarce hear the surge that has for ages  
 beat,  
 Sure many a lonely wanderer has stood ;  
 And while the distant murmur met his  
 ear,  
 And o'er the distant billows the still eve  
 Sailed slow, has thought of all his heart  
 must leave  
 To-morrow ; of the friends he loved  
 most dear ;  
 Of social scenes from which he wept to  
 part.  
 But if, like me, he knew how fruitless  
 all  
 The thoughts that would full fain the  
 past recall ;  
 Soon would he quell the risings of his  
 heart,  
 And brave the wild winds and unhearing  
 tide,  
 The world his country, and his God his  
 guide.

## ON THE RHINE.

'Twas morn, and beauteous on the moun-  
 tain's brow  
 (Hung with the blushes of the bending  
 vine)  
 Streamed the blue light, when on the  
 sparkling Rhine  
 We bounded, and the white waves round  
 the prow  
 In murmurs parted ; varying as we go,  
 Lo ! the woods open and the rocks  
 retire ;  
 Some convent's ancient walls, or glisten-  
 ing spire  
 Mid the bright landscape's tract, unfold-  
 ing slow.  
 Here dark with furrowed aspect, like  
 despair,  
 Hangs the bleak cliff, there on the  
 woodland's side  
 The shadowy sunshine pours its stream-  
 ing tide ;

Whilst Hope, enchanted with a scene so  
 fair,  
 Would wish to linger many a summer's  
 day,  
 Nor heeds how fast the prospect winds  
 away.

## WRITTEN AT OSTEND.

How sweet the tuneful bells responsive  
 peal !  
 As when, at opening morn, the fragrant  
 breeze  
 Breathes on the trembling sense of wan  
 disease,  
 So piercing to my heart their force I feel !  
 And hark ! with lessening cadence now  
 they fall,  
 And now along the white and level  
 tide  
 They fling their melancholy music  
 wide,  
 Bidding me many a tender thought recall  
 Of summer days, and those delightful  
 years,  
 When by my native streams, in life's  
 fair prime,  
 The mournful magic of their mingling  
 chime  
 First waked my wondering childhood  
 into tears ;  
 But seeming now, when all those days  
 are o'er,  
 The sounds of joy, once heard and heard  
 no more.

## TO TIME.

O TIME, who knowest a lenient hand to  
 lay,  
 Softest on sorrow's wounds, and slowly  
 thence  
 (Lulling to sad repose the weary sense)  
 The faint pang stealest unperceived away :  
 On thee I rest my only hopes at last ;  
 And think when thou hast dried the  
 bitter tear,  
 That flows in vain o'er all my soul held  
 dear,  
 I may look back on many a sorrow past,  
 And greet life's peaceful evening with a  
 smile—

As some lone bird, at day's departing  
hour, [shower,  
Sings in the sunshine of the transient  
Forgetful, though its wings be wet the  
while.

But ah ! what ills must that poor heart  
endure,  
Who hopes from thee, and thee alone, a  
cure.

[REV. J. BLANCO WHITE. 1775—1841.]

### NIGHT AND DEATH.

MYSTERIOUS Night ! when our first parent  
knew

Thee from report divine, and heard thy  
name,

Did he not tremble for this lovely frame,  
This glorious canopy of light and blue ?

Yet 'neath a curtain of translucent dew,  
Bathed in the rays of the great setting  
flame,

Hesperus with the host of heaven came,  
And lo ! creation widened in man's  
view.

Who could have thought such darkness  
lay concealed

Within thy beams, O sun ! or who  
could find,

Whilst fly, and leaf, and insect stood re-  
vealed,

That to such countless orbs thou mad'st  
us blind !

Why do we then shun Death with anxious  
strife ?

If light can thus deceive, wherefore not  
life ?

[WILLIAM WORDSWORTH. 1770—1850.]

### LUCY GRAY ;

#### OR SOLITUDE.

OFT I had heard of Lucy Gray ;  
And, when I crossed the wild,  
I chanced to see at break of day,  
The solitary child.

No mate, no comrade, Lucy knew ;  
She dwelt on a wide moor,  
—The sweetest thing that ever grew  
Beside a human door !

You yet may spy the fawn at play  
The hare upon the green ;  
But the sweet face of Lucy Gray  
Will never more be seen.

"To-night will be a stormy night—  
You to the town must go ;  
And take a lantern, child, to light  
Your mother through the snow."

"That, father, will I gladly do !  
'Tis scarcely afternoon—  
The minster-clock has just struck two,  
And yonder is the moon."

At this the father raised his hook  
And snapped a fagot band ;  
He plied his work ;—and Lucy took  
The lantern in her hand.

Not blither is the mountain roe :  
With many a wanton stroke  
Her feet disperse the powdery snow,  
That rises up like smoke.

The storm came on before its time :  
She wandered up and down :  
And many a hill did Lucy climb ;  
But never reached the town.

The wretched parents all that night,  
Went shouting far and wide ;  
But there was neither sound nor sight  
To serve them for a guide.

At daybreak on a hill they stood  
That overlooked the moor ;  
And thence they saw the bridge of wood,  
A furlong from the door.

And, turning homeward, now they cried,  
"In heaven we all shall meet !"  
—When in the snow the mother spied  
The print of Lucy's feet.

Then downward from the steep hill's edge  
They tracked the footmarks small ;  
And through the broken hawthorn hedge,  
And by the long stone wall :

And then an open field they crossed :  
The marks were still the same ;  
They tracked them on, nor ever lost ;  
And to the bridge they came.





LUCY GRAY (WORDSWORTH).  
They followed from the snowy bank  
The footmarks, one by one.--P. 315.

They followed from the snowy bank  
The footmarks, one by one,  
Into the middle of the plank ;  
And further there were none !

—Yet some maintain that to this day  
She is a living child ;  
That you may see sweet Lucy Gray  
Upon the lonesome wild.

O'er rough and smooth she trips along,  
And never looks behind ;  
And sings a solitary song  
That whistles in the wind.

### WE ARE SEVEN.

A SIMPLE child  
That lightly draws its breath,  
And feels its life in every limb,  
What should it know of death ?

I met a little cottage girl :  
She was eight years old, she said ;  
Her hair was thick with many a curl  
That clustered round her head.

She had a rustic, woodland air,  
And she was wildly clad ;  
Her eyes were fair, and very fair ;  
—Her beauty made me glad.

"Sisters and brothers, little maid,  
How many may you be ?"  
"How many ? Seven in all," she said,  
And wondering looked at me.

"And where are they ? I pray you tell."  
She answered, "Seven are we ;  
And two of us at Conway dwell,  
And two are gone to sea.

"Two of us in the churchyard lie,  
My sister and my brother ;  
And, in the churchyard cottage, I  
Dwell near them with my mother."

"You say that two at Conway dwell,  
And two are gone to sea,  
Yet ye are seven !—I pray you tell,  
Sweet maid, how this may be ?"

Then did the little maid reply,  
"Seven boys and girls are we ;  
Two of us in the churchyard lie,  
Beneath the churchyard tree."

"You run about, my little maid,  
Your limbs they are alive ;  
If two are in the churchyard laid,  
Then ye are only five."

"Their graves are green, they may be  
seen,"  
The little maid replied,  
"Twelve steps or more from my mother's  
door,  
And they are side by side.

"My stockings there I often knit,  
My kerchief there I hem ;  
And there upon the ground I sit—  
I sit and sing to them.

"And often after sunset, Sir,  
When it is light and fair,  
I take my little porringer,  
And eat my supper there.

"The first that died was little Jane ;  
In bed she moaning lay,  
Till God released her of her pain :  
And then she went away.

"So in the churchyard she was laid ;  
And all the summer dry,  
Together round her grave we played,  
My brother John and I.

"And when the ground was white with  
snow,  
And I could run and slide,  
My brother John was forced to go,  
And he lies by her side."

"How many are you, then," said I,  
"If they two are in heaven ?"  
The little maiden did reply,  
"O master ! we are seven."

"But they are dead: those two are dead !  
Their spirits are in heaven !"  
'Twas throwing words away: for still  
The little maid would have her will,  
And said, "Nay, we are seven !"



## LUCY.

SHE dwelt among the untrodden ways  
Beside the springs of Dove,  
A maid whom there were none to praise,  
And very few to love.

A violet by a mossy stone  
Half hidden from the eye!  
Fair as a star, when only one  
Is shining in the sky.

She lived unknown, and few could know  
When Lucy ceased to be;  
But she is in her grave, and, oh,  
The difference to me!

\* \* \* \* \*  
I travelled among unknown men,  
In lands beyond the sea;  
Nor, England! did I know till then  
What love I bore to thee.

'Tis past, that melancholy dream!  
Nor will I quit thy shore  
A second time; for still I seem  
To love thee more and more.

Among thy mountains did I feel  
The joy of my desire;  
And she I cherished turned her wheel  
Beside an English fire.

Thy mornings showed, thy nights concealed  
The bowers where Lucy played;  
And thine is too the last green field  
That Lucy's eyes surveyed.

## RUTH.

WHEN Ruth was left half-desolate,  
Her father took another mate;  
And Ruth, not seven years old,  
A slighted child, at her own will  
Went wandering over dale and hill,  
In thoughtless freedom bold.

And she had made a pipe of straw,  
And from that oaten pipe could draw  
All sounds of winds and floods;  
Had built a bower upon the green,  
As if she from her birth had been  
An infant of the woods.

Beneath her father's roof, alone  
She seemed to live; her thoughts her  
own;  
Herself her own delight:  
Pleased with herself, nor sad, nor gay,  
She passed her time; and in this way  
Grew up to woman's height.

There came a youth from Georgia's  
shore,—  
A military casque he wore  
With splendid feathers dressed;  
He brought them from the Cherokees,  
The feathers nodded in the breeze,  
And made a gallant crest.

From Indian blood you deem him sprung:  
Ah! no, he spake the English tongue  
And bore a soldier's name;  
And, when America was free  
From battle and from jeopardy,  
He 'cross the ocean came.

With hues of genius on his cheek,  
In finest tones the youth could speak.  
—While he was yet a boy,  
The moon, the glory of the sun,  
And streams that murmur as they run,  
Had been his dearest joy.

He was a lovely youth! I guess  
The panther in the wilderness  
Was not so fair as he;  
And, when he chose to sport and play,  
No dolphin ever was so gay  
Upon the tropic sea.

Among the Indians he had fought;  
And with him many tales he brought  
Of pleasure and of fear;  
Such tales as, told to any maid  
By such a youth, in the green shade,  
Were perilous to hear.

He told of girls, a happy rout!  
Who quit their fold with dance and shoo  
Their pleasant Indian town,  
To gather strawberries all day long;  
Returning with a choral song  
When daylight is gone down.

He spake of plants divine and strange  
That every hour their blossoms change.

Ten thousand lovely hues !  
With budding, fading, faded flowers,  
They stand the wonder of the bowers,  
From morn to evening dews.

He told of the magnolia, spread  
High as a cloud, high over-head !  
The cypress and her spire,  
—Of flowers that with one scarlet gleam  
Cover a hundred leagues, and seem  
To set the hills on fire.

The youth of green savannahs spake,  
And many an endless, endless lake,  
With all its fairy crowds  
Of islands, that together lie  
As quietly as spots of sky  
Among the evening clouds.

And then he said, "How sweet it were  
A fisher or a hunter there,  
A gardener in the shade,  
Still wandering with an easy mind  
To build a household fire, and find  
A home in every glade !

"What days and what sweet years ! Ah  
me !  
Our life were life indeed, with thee  
So passed in quiet bliss,  
And all the while," said he, "to know  
That we were in a world of woe,  
On such an earth as this !"

And then he sometimes interwove  
Dear thoughts about a father's love ;  
"For there," said he, "are spun  
Around the heart such tender ties,  
That our own children to our eyes  
Are dearer than the sun.

"Sweet Ruth ! and could you go with  
me  
My helpmate in the woods to be,  
Our shed at night to rear ;  
Or run, my own adopted bride,  
A sylvan huntress at my side,  
And drive the flying deer !"

~~~~~  
TO THE SMALL CELANDINE.

PANSIES, lilies, kingcups, daisies,
Let them live upon their praises ;

Long as there's a sun that sets,
Primroses will have their glory ;
Long as there are violets,
They will have a place in story :
There's a flower that shall be mine,
'Tis the little Celandine.

Eyes of some men travel far
For the finding of a star ;
Up and down the heavens they go,
Men that keep a mighty rout !
I'm as great as they, I trow,
Since the day I found thee out,
Little flower !—I'll make a stir
Like a great astronomer.

Modest, yet withal an elf
Bold, and lavish of thyself ;
Since we needs must first have met
I have seen thee, high and low,
Thirty years or more, and yet
'Twas a face I did not know ;
Thou hast now, go where I may,
Fifty greetings in a day.

Ere a leaf is on a bush,
In the time before the thrush
Has a thought about its nest,
Thou wilt come with half a call,
Spreading out thy glossy breast
Like a careless prodigal ;
Telling tales about the sun,
When we've little warmth, or none

Poets, vain men in their mood !
Travel with the multitude ;
Never heed them ; I aver
That they all are wanton wooers.
But the thrifty cottager,
Who stirs little out of doors,
Joys to spy thee near her home :
Spring is coming—thou art come !

Comfort have thou of thy merit,
Kindly, unassuming spirit !
Careless of thy neighbourhood,
Thou dost show thy pleasant face
On the moor, and in the wood,
In the lane—there's not a place,
Howsoever mean it be,
But 'tis good enough for thee.

Ill befall the yellow flowers,
Children of the flaring hours !
Buttercups that will be seen,
Whether we will see or no ;
Others, too, of lofty mien ;
They have done as worldlings do,
Taken praise that should be thine,
Little, humble Celandine !

Prophet of delight and mirth,
Scorned and slighted upon earth ;
Herald of a mighty band,
Of a joyous train ensuing,
Singing at my heart's command,
In the lanes my thoughts pursuing
I will sing, as doth behove,
Hymns in praise of what I love !

TO A SKY-LARK.

Up with me ! up with me, into the clouds !
For thy song, Lark, is strong ;
Up with me, up with me, into the clouds !
Singing, singing,

With all the heavens about thee ringing.
Lift me, guide me till I find
That spot which seems so to thy mind !

I have walked through wildernesses
dreary,

And to-day my heart is weary ;

Had I now the wings of a fairy,

Up to thee would I fly.

There is madness about thee, and joy
divine

In that song of thine ;

Up with me, up with me, high and high,

To thy banqueting-place in the sky !

Joyous as morning,

Thou art laughing and scorning ;

Thou hast a nest, for thy love and thy rest :

And, though little troubled with sloth,

Drunken Lark ! thou wouldst be loth

To be such a traveller as I.

Happy, happy liver !

With a soul as strong as a mountain
river,

Pouring out praise to th' Almighty Giver,

Joy and jollity be with us both !

Hearing thee, or else some other,

As merry a brother,

I on the earth will go plodding on,

By myself, cheerfully, till the day is done.

YEW-TREES.

THERE is a yew-tree, pride of Lorton

Vale,

Which to this day stands single, in the
midst

Of its own darkness, as it stood of
yore,

Not loth to furnish weapons for the
bands

Of Umfraville or Percy, ere they marched
To Scotland's heaths ; or those that crossed
the sea

And drew their sounding bows at Azin-
cour,

Perhaps at earlier Crecy, or Poitiers.

Of vast circumference and gloom pro-
found

This solitary tree !—a living thing

Produced too slowly ever to decay ;

Of form and aspect too magnificent

To be destroyed. But worthier still of
note

Are those fraternal four of Borrowdale,

Joined in one solemn and capacious grove ;

Huge trunks !—and each particular trunk
a growth

Of intertwined fibres serpentine

Up-coiling, and inveterately convolved,—
Nor uninformed with phantasy, and

looks

That threaten the profane ; a pillared
shade,

Upon whose grassless floor of red-brown
hue,

By sheddings from the pining umbrage
tinged

Perennially—beneath whose sable roof

Of boughs, as if for festal purpose,
decked

With unrejoicing berries, ghostly shapes

May meet at noontide—Fear and trem-
bling Hope,

Silence and Foresight—Death the skele-
ton

And Time the shadow,—there to cele-
brate,

As in a natural temple scattered o'er

With altars undisturbed of mossy stone,

United worship ; or in mute repose

To lie, and listen to the mountain flood

Murmuring from Glaramara's inmost
caves.

TO THE CUCKOO.

O BLITHE new-comer ! I have heard,
I hear thee and rejoice :
O Cuckoo ! shall I call thee bird,
Or but a wandering voice ?

While I am lying on the grass,
Thy loud note smites my ear !
From hill to hill it seems to pass,
At once far off and near !

I hear thee babbling to the vale
Of sunshine and of flowers ;
And unto me thou bring'st a tale
Of visionary hours.

Thrice welcome, darling of the spring !
Even yet thou art to me
No bird, but an invisible thing,
A voice, a mystery.

The same whom in my school-boy days
I listened to ; that cry
Which made me look a thousand ways
In bush, and tree, and sky.

To seek thee did I often rove
Through woods and on the green ;
And thou wert still a hope, a love ;
Still longed for, never seen !

And I can listen to thee yet ;
Can lie upon the plain
And listen, till I do beget
That golden time again.

O blessed bird ! the earth we pace
Again appears to be
An unsubstantial, fairy place,
That is fit home for thee !



A MEMORY.

THREE years she grew in sun and shower,
Then Nature said, "A lovelier flower
On earth was never sown :
This child I to myself will take :
She shall be mine, and I will make
A lady of my own.

"Myself will to my darling be
Both law and impulse ; and with me
The girl, in rock and plain,
In earth and heaven, in glade and bower,
Shall feel an overseeing power
To kindle or restrain.

"She shall be sportive as the fawn,
That wild with glee across the lawn
Or up the mountain springs ;
And hers shall be the breathing balm,
And hers the silence and the calm
Of mute insensate things.

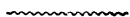
"The floating clouds their state shall lend
To her ; for her the willow bend ;
Nor shall she fail to see
E'en in the motions of the storm
Grace that shall mould the maiden's form
By silent sympathy.

"The stars of midnight shall be dear
To her ; and she shall lean her ear
In many a secret place
Where rivulets dance their wayward round,
And beauty born of murmuring sound
Shall pass into her face.

"And vital feelings of delight
Shall rear her form to stately height,
Her virgin bosom swell ;
Such thoughts to Lucy I will give
While she and I together live
Here in this happy dell."

Thus Nature spake. The work was
done—

How soon my Lucy's race was run !
She died, and left to me
This heath, this calm and quiet scene ;
The memory of what has been,
And never more will be.



A TRUE WOMAN.

SHE was a phantom of delight
When first she gleamed upon my sight ;
A lovely apparition, sent
To be a moment's ornament ;
Her eyes as stars of twilight fair,
Like twilight's, too, her dusky hair ;
But all things else about her drawn
From May-time and the cheerful dawn

A dancing shape, an image gay,
To haunt, to startle, and waylay.

I saw her upon nearer view,
A spirit, yet a woman too !
Her household motions light and free,
And steps of virgin liberty ;
A countenance in which did meet
Sweet records, promises as sweet ;
A creature not too bright or good
For human nature's daily food,
For transient sorrows, simple wiles,
Praise, blame, love, kisses, tears, and
smiles.

And now I see with eye serene
The very pulse of the machine ;
A being breathing thoughtful breath,
A traveller betwixt life and death ;
The reason firm, the temperate will,
Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill ;
A perfect woman, nobly planned,
To warn, to comfort, and command ;
And yet a spirit still, and bright
With something of an angel light.

TO A HIGHLAND GIRL.

(AT INVERNAID, LOCH LOMOND.)

SWEET Highland Girl, a very shower
Of beauty is thy earthly dower !
Twice seven consenting years have shed
Their utmost bounty on thy head ;
And these grey rocks ; this household
lawn ;

These trees, a veil just half withdrawn ;
This fall of water, that doth make
A murmur near the silent lake ;
This little bay, a quiet road,
That holds in shelter thy abode ;
In truth together ye do seem
Like something fashioned in a dream ;
Such forms as from their covert peep
When earthly cares are laid asleep !
Yet, dream and vision as thou art,
I bless thee with a human heart !
God shield thee to thy latest years !
I neither know thee nor thy peers ;
And yet my eyes are filled with tears.

With earnest feeling I shall pray
For thee when I am far away ;

For never saw I mien, or face,
In which more plainly I could trace
Benignity and home-bred sense
Ripening in perfect innocence.
Here, scattered like a random seed,
Remote from men, thou dost not need
The embarrassed look of shy distress,
And maidenly shamefacedness ;
Thou wearest upon thy forehead clear
The freedom of a mountaineer,
A face with gladness overspread !
Sweet looks, by human kindness bred !
And seemliness complete, that sways
Thy courtesies, about thee plays ;
With no restraint, but such as springs
From quick and eager visitings
Of thoughts, that lie beyond the reach
Of thy few words of English speech ;
A bondage sweetly brooked, a strife
That gives thy gestures grace and life !
So have I, not unmoved in mind,
Seen birds of tempest-loving kind,
Thus beating up against the wind.

What hand but would a garland cull
For thee, who art so beautiful ?
O happy pleasure ! here to dwell
Beside thee in some heathy dell ;
Adopt your homely ways and dress
A shepherd, thou a shepherdess !
But I could frame a wish for thee
More like a grave reality :
Thou art to me but as a wave
Of the wild sea ; and I would have
Some claim upon thee, if I could,
Though but of common neighbourhood.
What joy to hear thee, and to see !
Thy elder brother I would be,
Thy father, anything to thee !
Now thanks to Heaven ! that of its grace
Hath led me to this lonely place.
Joy have I had ; and going hence
I bear away my recompense.
In spots like these it is we prize
Our memory, feel that she hath eyes ;
Then, why should I be loth to stir ?
I feel this place was made for her ;
To give new pleasure like the past,
Continued long as life shall last.
Nor am I loth, though pleased at heart,
Sweet Highland Girl ! from thee to part ;
For I, methinks, till I grow old,
As fair before me shall behold,

As I do now, the cabin small,
The lake, the bay, the waterfall ;
And thee, the spirit of them all !

~~~~~  
YARROW UNVISITED. 1803.

FROM Stirling Castle we had seen  
The mazy Forth unravelled ;  
Had trod the banks of Clyde and Tay,  
And with the Tweed had travelled ;  
And, when we came to Clovenford,  
Then said my "*winsome Marrow*,"  
"Whate'er betide, we'll turn aside,  
And see the Braes of Yarrow."

"Let Yarrow folk, frae Selkirk town,  
Who have been buying, selling,  
Go back to Yarrow, 'tis their own,  
Each maiden to her dwelling !  
On Yarrow's banks let herons feed,  
Hares couch, and rabbits burrow !  
But we will downwards with the Tweed,  
Nor turn aside to Yarrow."

"There's Galla Water, Leader Haughs,  
Both lying right before us ;  
And Dryburgh, where with chiming Tweed  
The lintwhites sing in chorus ;  
There's pleasant Teviotdale, a land  
Made blithe with plough and harrow :  
Why throw away a needful day  
To go in search of Yarrow ?

"What's Yarrow but a river bare,  
That glides the dark hills under ?  
There are a thousand such elsewhere  
As worthy of your wonder."  
—Strange words they seemed of slight  
and scorn ;  
My true love sighed for sorrow ;  
And looked me in the face, to think  
I thus could speak of Yarrow !

"Oh ! green," said I, "are Yarrow's  
holms,  
And sweet is Yarrow flowing !  
Fair hangs the the apple frae the rock,  
But we will leave it growing.  
O'er hilly path, and open strath,  
We'll wander Scotland thorough ,  
But, though so near, we will not turn  
Into the dale of Yarrow."

"Let beeves and home-breu kine partake  
The sweets of Burn-mill meadow ;  
The swan on still Saint Mary's Lake  
Float double, swan and shadow !  
We will not see them ; will not go  
To-day, nor yet to-morrow ;  
Enough if in our hearts we know  
There's such a place as Yarrow,

"Be Yarrow stream unseen, unknown !  
It must, or we shall rue it :  
We have a vision of our own ;  
Ah ! why should we undo it ?  
The treasured *dreams* of times long past,  
We'll keep them, winsome Marrow !  
For when we're there, although 'tis fair,  
'Twill be another Yarrow !

"If care with freezing years should come,  
And wandering seem but folly,—  
Should we be loth to stir from home,  
And yet be melancholy ;  
Should life be dull, and spirits low,  
'Twill soothe us in our sorrow  
That earth has something yet to show,  
The bonny holms of Yarrow !"

~~~~~  
YARROW VISITED.

SEPTEMBER, 1814.

AND is this Yarrow ?—*this* the stream
Of which my fancy cherished
So faithfully, a waking dream ?
An image that hath perished !
O that some minstrel's harp were near,
To utter notes of gladness,
And chase this silence from the air,
That fills my heart with sadness !

Yet why ?—a silvery current flows
With uncontrolled meanderings ;
Nor have these eyes by greener hills
Been soothed, in all my wanderings.
And, through her depths, Saint Mary's
Lake
Is visibly delighted ;
For not a feature of those hills
Is in the mirror slighted.

A blue sky bends o'er Yarrow Vale,
Save where that pearly whiteness

Is round the rising sun diffused,
A tender hazy brightness ;
Mild dawn of promise ! that excludes
All profitless dejection ;
Though not unwilling here to admit
A pensive recollection.

Where was it that the famous flower
Of Yarrow Vale lay bleeding ?
His bed perchance was yon smooth mound
On which the herd is feeding :
And haply from this crystal pool,
Now peaceful as the morning,
The water-wraith ascended thrice,
And gave his doleful warning.

Delicious is the lay that sings
The haunts of happy lovers,
The path that leads them to the grove,
The leafy grove that covers :
And pity sanctifies the verse
That paints, by strength of sorrow,
The unconquerable strength of love ;
Bear witness, rueful Yarrow !

But thou, that didst appear so fair
To fond imagination,
Dost rival in the light of day
Her delicate creation :
Meek loveliness is round thee spread,
A softness still and holy ;
The grace of forest charms decayed,
And pastoral melancholy.

That region left, the vale unfolds
Rich groves of lofty stature,
With Yarrow winding through the pomp
Of cultivated nature ;
And, rising from those lofty groves,
Behold a ruin hoary !
The shattered front of Newark's towers,
Renowned in border story.

Fair scenes for childhood's opening bloom,
For sportive youth to stray in ;
For manhood to enjoy his strength ;
And age to wear away in !
Yon cottage seems a bower of bliss,
It promises protection
To studious ease, and generous cares,
And every chaste affection !

How sweet on this autumnal day,
The wild wood's fruits to gather,
And on my true love's forehead plant
A crest of blooming heather !
And what if I enwreath my own !
'Twere no offence to reason ;
The sober hills thus deck their brows
To meet the wintry season.

I see—but not by sight alone,
Loved Yarrow, have I won thee ;
A ray of fancy still survives—
Her sunshine plays upon thee !
Thy ever youthful waters keep
A course of lively pleasure ;
And gladsome notes my lips can breathe
Accordant to the measure.

The vapours linger round the heights,
They melt—and soon must vanish ;
One hour is theirs, no more is mine—
Sad thought ! which I would banish,
But that I know, where'er I go,
Thy genuine image, Yarrow !
Will dwell with me—to heighten joy,
And cheer my mind in sorrow.



A POET'S EPITAPH.

ART thou a statesman, in the van
Of public business trained and bred ?
—First learn to love one living man !
Then mayst thou think upon the dead.

A lawyer art thou ?—draw not nigh ;
Go, carry to some other place
The hardness of thy coward eye,
The falsehood of thy sallow face.

Art thou a man of purple cheer,
A rosy man, right plump to see ?
Approach ; yet, doctor, not too near ;
This grave no cushion is for thee.

Art thou a man of gallant pride,
A soldier, and no man of chaff ?
Welcome !—but lay thy sword aside,
And lean upon a peasant's staff.

Physician art thou ? One, all eyes,
Philosopher ! a fingering slave,

One that would peep and botanize
Upon his mother's grave?

Wrapt closely in thy sensual fleece,
O turn aside,—and take, I pray,
That he below may rest in peace,
That abject thing, thy soul, away.

—A moralist perchance appears ;
Led, Heaven knows how, to this poor sod ;
And he has neither eyes nor ears ;
Himself his world, and his own God ;

One to whose smooth-rubbed soul can
cling,
Nor form, nor feeling, great nor small ;
A reasoning, self-sufficient thing,
An intellectual all in all :

Shut close the door, press down the latch ;
Sleep in thy intellectual crust ;
Nor lose ten tickings of thy watch
Near this unprofitable dust.

But who is he with modest looks,
And clad in homely russet brown ?
He murmurs near the running brooks
A music sweeter than their own.

He is retired as noontide dew
Or fountain in a noon-day grove ;
And you must love him, ere to you
He will seem worthy of your love.

The outward shows of sky and earth,
Of hill and valley, he has viewed ;
And impulses of deeper birth
Have come to him in solitude.

In common things that round us lie
Some random truths he can impart,
—The harvest of a quiet eye
That broods and sleeps on his own heart.

But he is weak, both man and boy,
Hath been an idler in the land :
Contented if he might enjoy
The things which others understand.

—Come hither in thy hour of strength ;
Come, weak as is a breaking wave !
Here stretch thy body at full length,
Or build thy house upon this grave.

PERSONAL TALK.

I.

I AM not one who much or oft delight
To season my fireside with personal
talk,—

Of friends who live within an easy walk,
Or neighbours daily, weekly, in my sight :
And, for my chance acquaintance, ladies
bright,

Sons, mothers, maidens withering on the
stalk ;

These all wear out of me, like forms with
chalk

Painted on rich men's floors for one feast-
night.

Better than such discourse doth silence
long,

Long, barren silence, square with my
desire ;

To sit without emotion, hope, or aim,
In the loved presence of my cottage fire,
And listen to the flapping of the flame,
Or kettle, whispering its faint undersong.

II.

“ Yet life,” you say, “ is life ; we have
seen and see,

And with a living pleasure we describe ;
And fits of sprightly malice do but bribe
The languid mind into activity.

Sound sense, and love itself, and mirth
and glee,

Are fostered by the comment and the
gibe.”

E'en be it so : yet still, among your tribe,
Our daily world's true worldlings, rank
not me !

Children are blest, and powerful ; their
world lies

More justly balanced ; partly at their feet
And part far from them : sweetest melo-
dies

Are those that are by distance made more
sweet.

Whose mind is but the mind of his own
eyes,

He is a slave—the meanest we can meet !

III.

Wings have we—and as far as we can go,
We may find pleasure : wilderness and
wood,

Blank ocean and mere sky, support that
 mood
 Which, with the lofty, sanctifies the low ;
 Dreams, books, are each a world ; and
 books, we know,
 Are a substantial world, both pure and
 good :
 Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh
 and blood,
 Our pastime and our happiness will grow.
 There do I find a never-failing store
 Of personal themes, and such as I love
 best ;
 Matter wherein right voluble I am ;
 Two will I mention, dearer than the rest :
 'The gentle lady married to the Moor ;
 And heavenly Una, with her milk-white
 lamb.

IV.

Nor can I not believe but that hereby
 Great gains are mine ; for thus I live
 remote
 From evil-speaking ; rancour, never
 sought,
 Comes to me not ; malignant truth or lie.
 Hence have I genial seasons, hence have I
 Smooth passions, smooth discourse, and
 joyous thought :
 And thus, from day to day, my little boat
 Rocks in its harbour, lodging peaceably.
 Blessings be with them—and eternal praise,
 Who gave us nobler loves, and nobler
 cares,
 The poets—who on earth have made us
 heirs [lays !
 Of truth and pure delight by heavenly
 Oh ! might my name be numbered among
 theirs,
 Then gladly would I end my mortal days.

ODE TO DUTY.

STERN daughter of the voice of God !
 O Duty ! if that name thou love
 Who art a light to guide, a rod
 To check the erring, and reprove ;
 Thou who art victory and law
 When empty terrors overawe ;
 From vain temptations dost set free ;
 And calm'st the weary strife of frail hu-
 manity :

There are who ask not if thine eye
 Be on them ; who, in love and truth,
 Where no misgiving is, rely
 Upon the genial sense of youth :
 Glad hearts ! without reproach or blot ;
 Who do thy work, and know it not :
 May joy be theirs while life shall last !
 And thou, if they should totter, teach
 them to stand fast !

Serene will be our days and bright,
 And happy will our nature be,
 When love is an unerring light,
 And joy its own security.
 And blest are they who in the main
 This faith, even now, do entertain :
 Live in the spirit of this creed ;
 Yet find that other strength, according to
 their need.

I, loving freedom, and untried ;
 No sport of every random gust,
 Yet being to myself a guide,
 Too blindly have reposed my trust ;
 Full oft, when in my heart was heard
 Thy timely mandate, I deferred
 The task imposed, from day to day ;
 But thee I now would serve more strictly,
 if I may.

Through no disturbance of my soul,
 Or strong compunction in me wrought,
 I supplicate for thy control ;
 But in the quietness of thought ;
 Me this unchartered freedom tires ;
 I feel the weight of chance desires :
 My hopes no more must change their
 name,
 I long for a repose which ever is the same.

Stern lawgiver ! yet thou dost wear
 The Godhead's most benignant grace ;
 Nor know we anything so fair
 As is the smile upon thy face ;
 Flowers laugh before thee on their beds ;
 And fragrance in thy footing treads ;
 Thou dost preserve the stars from wrong
 And the most ancient heavens, through
 thee, are fresh and strong.

To humbler functions, awful power !
 I call thee : I myself commend
 Unto thy guidance from this hour ;
 Oh ! let my weakness have an end !

Give unto me, made lowly wise,
The spirit of self-sacrifice ;
The confidence of reason give ;
And, in the light of truth, thy bondman
let me live !

~~~~~

THE USES AND BEAUTIES OF  
THE SONNET.

NUNS fret not at their convent's narrow  
room ;  
And hermits are contented with their cells ;  
And students with their pensive citadels ;  
Maids at the wheel, the weaver at his  
loom,  
Sit blithe and happy ; bees that soar for  
bloom,  
High as the highest peak of Furness Fells,  
Will murmur by the hour in foxglove  
bells :  
In truth, the prison, unto which we doom  
Ourselves, no prison is : and hence to me,  
In sundry moods, 'twas pastime to be  
bound  
Within the Sonnet's scanty plot of ground :  
Pleased if some souls (for such there needs  
must be)  
Who have felt the weight of too much  
liberty,  
Should find short solace there, as I have  
found.

~~~~~

UPON THE SIGHT OF A BEAU-
TIFUL PICTURE.

PRASED be the art whose subtle power
could stay
Yon cloud, and fix it in that glorious
shape ;
Nor would permit the thin smoke to
escape,
Nor those bright sunbeams to forsake the
day ;
Which stopped that band of travellers on
their way
Ere they were lost within the shady wood ;
And showed the bark upon the glassy flood
For ever anchored in her sheltering bay.
Soul-soothing art ! which morning, noon-
tide, even,
Dost serve with all their changeful pageantry !

Thou, with ambition modest yet sublime,
Here, for the sight of mortal man, hast
given
To one brief moment, caught from fleeting
time,
The appropriate calm of blest eternity.

~~~~~

TWILIGHT.

HAIL Twilight, sovereign of one peaceful  
hour !  
Not dull art thou as undiscerning Night ;  
But studious only to remove from sight  
Day's mutable distinctions. Ancient  
power !  
Thus did the waters gleam, the mountains  
lower  
To the rude Briton, when, in wolf-skin  
vest  
Here roving wild, he laid him down to  
rest  
On the bare rock, or through a leafy  
bower  
Looked ere his eyes were closed. By him  
was seen  
The selfsame vision which we now behold,  
At thy meek bidding, shadowy power,  
brought forth ;  
These mighty barriers, and the gulf  
between ;  
The floods,—the stars ; a spectacle as old  
As the beginning of the heavens and earth !

~~~~~

WOODLAND WALKS.

How sweet it is, when mother Fancy
rocks
The wayward brain, to saunter through a
wood !
An old place, full of many a lovely brood,
Tall trees, green arbours, and ground
flowers in flocks ;
And wild rose tiptoe upon hawthorn
stocks,
Like to a bonny lass, who plays her pranks
At wakes and fairs with wandering
mountebanks,—
When she stands cresting the clown's
head, and mocks

The crowd beneath her. Verily I think,
Such place to me is sometimes like a
dream
Or map of the whole world: thoughts,
link by link,
Enter through ears and eyesight, with
such gleam
Of all things, that at last in fear I shrink,
And leap at once from the delicious
stream.



THE SHIP.

WHERE lies the land to which you ship
must go?
Festively she puts forth in trim array;
As vigorous as a lark at break of day:
Is she for tropic suns, or polar snow?
What boots the inquiry? Neither friend
nor foe
She cares for; let her travel where she
may,
She finds familiar names, a beaten way
Ever before her, and a wind to blow.
Yet still I ask, what haven is her mark?
And, almost as it was when ships were
rare,
(From time to time, like pilgrims, here
and there
Crossing the waters) doubt, and something
dark,
Of the old sea some reverential fear,
Is with me at thy farewell, joyous bark!



TO SLEEP.

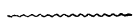
I.

A FLOCK of sheep that leisurely pass by,
One after one; the sound of rain, and
bees
Murmuring; the fall of rivers, winds and
seas,
Smooth fields, white sheets of water, and
pure sky;
I've thought of all by turns; and still I
lie
Sleepless; and soon the small birds'
melodies
Must hear, first uttered from my orchard
trees;
And the first cuckoo's melancholy cry.

Even thus last night, and two nights
more, I lay,
And could not win thee, Sleep! by any
stealth:
So do not let me wear to-night away:
Without thee what is all the morning's
wealth?
Come, blessed barrier betwixt day and
day,
Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous
health!

II.

Fond words have oft been spoken to
thee, Sleep!
And thou hast had thy store of tenderest
names;
The very sweetest words that fancy
frames
When thankfulness of heart is strong and
deep!
Dear bosom child we call thee, that dost
steep
In rich reward all suffering; balm that
tames
All anguish; saint that evil thoughts and
aims
Takest away, and into souls dost creep,
Like to a breeze from heaven. Shall I
alone—
I, surely not a man ungently made—
Call thee worst tyrant by which flesh is
crossed?
Perverse, self-willed to own and to dis-
own,
Mere slave of them who never for thee
prayed,
Still last to come where thou art wanted
most!



THE WORLD.

THE world is too much with us; late and
soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our
powers:
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid
boon!
This sea that bares her bosom to the
moon;

The winds that will be howling at all
hours
And are up-gathered now like sleeping
flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of
tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather
A pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less
forlorn,
Have sight of Proteus coming from the
sea,
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathed
horn.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

EARTH has not anything to show more
fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass
by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This city now doth like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and
temples lie
Open unto the fields and to the sky,
All bright and glittering in the smokeless
air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour valley, rock, or
hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

PELION AND OSSA.

PELION and Ossa flourish side by side,
Together in immortal books enrolled;
His ancient dower Olympus hath not
sold;
And that inspiring hill, which "did
divide
Into two ample horns his forehead wide,"
Shines with poetic radiance as of old;
While not an English mountain we be-
hold
By the celestial muses glorified.

Yet round our sea-girt shore they rise in
crowds:
What was the great Parnassus' self to
thee,
Mount Skiddaw? In his natural sove-
reignty
Our British hill is fairer far; he shrouds
His double-fronted head in higher clouds,
And pours forth streams more sweet than
Castalay.

THE BROOK.

BROOK! whose society the poet seeks
Intent his wasted spirits to renew;
And whom the curious painter doth
pursue
Through rocky passes, among flowery
creeks,
And tracks thee dancing down thy water-
breaks;
If I some type of thee did wish to view,
Thee,—and not thee thyself, I would not
do
Like Grecian artists, give thee human
cheeks,
Channels for tears; no Naiad shouldst
thou be,
Have neither limbs, feet, feathers, joints,
nor hairs;
It seems the eternal soul is clothed in
thee
With purer robes than those of flesh and
blood,
And hath bestowed on thee a better
good—
Unwearied joy, and life without its cares.

EVENING.

It is a beauteous evening, calm and free;
The holy time is quiet as a nun
Breathless with adoration; the broad sun
Is sinking down in its tranquillity;
The gentleness of heaven is on the sea:
Listen! the mighty being is awake,
And doth with his eternal motion make
A sound like thunder everlastingly.
Dear child! dear girl! that walkest with
me here,
If thou appear'st untouched by solemn
thought,

Thy nature therefore is not less divine :
 Thou liest "in Abraham's bosom" all
 the year ;
 And worshipp'st at the temple's inner
 shrine,
 God being with thee when we know it
 not.

~~~~~  
 BUONAPARTE.

I GRIEVED for Buonaparte, with a vain  
 And an unthinking grief ! for, who aspires  
 To genuine greatness but from just de-  
 sires,  
 And knowledge such as he could never  
 gain ?  
 'Tis not in battles that from youth we  
 train  
 The governor who must be wise and  
 good,  
 And temper with the sternness of the  
 brain  
 Thoughts motherly and meek as woman-  
 hood.  
 Wisdom doth live with children round  
 her knees,  
 Books, leisure, perfect freedom, and the  
 talk  
 Man holds with week-day man in the  
 hourly walk  
 Of the mind's business : these are the  
 degrees  
 By which true sway doth mount ; 'tis is  
 the stalk  
 True power doth grow on ; and her rights  
 are these.

~~~~~  
 ON THE EXTINCTION OF THE
 VENETIAN REPUBLIC.

ONCE did she hold the gorgeous East in
 fee ;
 And was the safeguard of the West : the
 worth
 Of Venice did not fall below her birth—
 Venice, the eldest child of Liberty !
 She was a maiden city, bright and free ;
 No guile seduced, no force could violate ;
 And, when she took unto herself a mate,
 She must espouse the everlasting sea.
 And what if she had seen those glories
 fade,

Those titles vanish, and that strength
 decay ;
 Yet shall some tribute of regret be paid
 When her long life hath reached its final
 day :
 Men are we, and must grieve when even
 the shade
 Of that which once was great is passed
 away.

~~~~~  
 TO TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

TOUSSAINT, the most unhappy man of  
 men !  
 Whether the all-cheering sun be free to  
 shed  
 His beams around thee, or thou rest thy  
 head  
 Pillowed in some dark dungeon's noisome  
 den—  
 O miserable chieftain ! where and when  
 Wilt thou find patience ? Yet die not ;  
 do thou  
 Wear rather in thy bonds a cheerful brow :  
 Though fallen thyself, never to rise again,  
 Live, and take comfort. Thou hast left  
 behind  
 Powers that will work for thee : air,  
 earth, and skies ;  
 There's not a breathing of the common  
 wind  
 That will forget thee ; thou hast great  
 allies ;  
 Thy friends are exultations, agonies,  
 And love, and man's unconquerable  
 mind.

~~~~~  
 FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

SEPTEMBER, 1802.

INLAND, within a hollow vale, I stood ;
 And saw, while sea was calm and air
 was clear,
 The coast of France—the coast of France
 how near !
 Drawn almost into frightful neighbour-
 hood.
 I shrunk, for verily the barrier flood
 Was like a lake, or river bright and fair,
 A span of waters ; yet what power is
 there !

What mightiness for evil and for good !
 Even so doth God protect us if we be
 Virtuous and wise. Winds blow, and
 waters roll,
 Strength to the brave, and power, and
 deity,
 Yet in themselves are nothing ! One
 decree
 Spake laws to them, and said that by the
 soul
 Only the nations shall be great and free.

~~~~~

### ON THE SUBJUGATION OF SWITZERLAND.

Two voices are there—one is of the sea,  
 One of the mountains—each a mighty  
 voice :  
 In both from age to age, thou didst  
 rejoice,  
 They were thy chosen music, Liberty !  
 There came a tyrant, and with holy glee  
 Thou fought'st against him ; but hast  
 vainly striven ;  
 Thou from thy Alpine holds at length art  
 driven,  
 Where not a torrent murmurs heard by  
 thee.  
 Of one deep bliss thine ear hath been  
 bereft :  
 Then cleave, O cleave to that which still  
 is left ;  
 For, high-souled maid, what sorrow  
 would it be  
 That mountain floods should thunder as  
 before,  
 And ocean bellow from his rocky shore,  
 And neither awful voice be heard by  
 thee !

~~~~~

MILTON : 1802.

MILTON ! thou shouldst be living at this
 hour :
 England hath need of thee : she is a fen
 Of stagnant waters : altar, sword, and
 pen,
 Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and
 bower,
 Have forfeited their ancient English
 dower

Of inward happiness. We are selfish
 men :
 Oh ! raise us up, return to us again ;
 And give us manners, virtue, freedom,
 power.
 Thy soul was like a star, and dwelt apart :
 Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like
 the sea ;
 Pure as the naked heavens, majestic,
 free ;
 So didst thou travel on life's common
 way,
 In cheerful godliness ; and yet thy heart
 The lowliest duties on itself did lay.

~~~~~

### GREAT MEN.

GREAT men have been among us ; hands  
 that penned  
 And tongues that uttered wisdom, better  
 none :  
 The later Sydney, Marvel, Harington,  
 Young Vane and others, who called  
 Milton friend.  
 These moralists could act and compre-  
 hend :  
 They knew how genuine glory was put  
 on ;  
 Taught us how rightfully a nation shone  
 In splendour : what strength was, that  
 would not bend  
 But in magnanimous meekness. France,  
 'tis strange,  
 Hath brought forth no such souls as we  
 had then.  
 Perpetual emptiness ! unceasing change !  
 No single volume paramount, no code,  
 No master spirit, no determined road ;  
 But equally a want of books and men !

~~~~~

TO THOMAS CLARKSON,

ON THE FINAL PASSING OF THE BILL
 FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE
 TRADE, MARCH, 1807.

CLARKSON ! it was an obstinate hill to
 climb :
 How toilsome, nay, how dire it was, by
 thee
 Is known—by none, perhaps so feelingly ;

But thou, who, starting in thy fervent
prime,
Didst first lead forth this pilgrimage
sublime,
Hast heard the constant voice its charge
repeat,
Which, out of thy young heart's oracular
seat,
First roused thee, O true yoke-fellow of
Time.
With unabating effort, see, the palm
Is won, and by all nations shall be worn!
The bloody writing is for ever torn,
And thou henceforth shalt have a good
man's calm,
A great man's happiness; thy zeal shall
find
Repose at length, firm friend of human
kind!

UNIVERSALITY.

O'ER the wide earth, on mountain and on
plain,
Dwells in the affections and the soul of
man
A godhead, like the universal Pan,
But more exalted, with a brighter train.
And shall his bounty be dispensed in
vain,
Showered equally on city and on field,
And neither hope nor steadfast promise
yield
In these usurping times of fear and pain?
Such doom awaits us. Nay, forbid it,
Heaven!
We know the arduous strife, the eternal
laws
To which the triumph of all good is given,
High sacrifice, and labour without pause,
Even to the death: else wherefore should
the eye
Of man converse with immortality?

HONOUR.

SAY, what is Honour? 'Tis the finest
sense
Of justice which the human mind can
frame,
Intent each lurking frailty to disclaim,

And guard the way of life from all offence
Suffered or done. When lawless violence
A kingdom doth assault, and in the scale
Of perilous war her weightiest armies fail,
Honour is hopeful elevation—whence
Glory—and Triumph. Yet with politic
skill
Endangered states may yield to terms
unjust,
Stoop their proud heads—but not unto
the dust,
A foe's most favourite purpose to fulfil!
Happy occasions oft by self-mistrust
Are forfeited; but infamy doth kill.

THE TRUE MAN.

AVAUNT all specious pliancy of mind
In men of low degree, all smooth pre-
tence!
I better like a blunt indifference
And self-respecting slowness, disinclined
To win me at first sight:—and be there
joined
Patience and temperance with this high
reserve,—
Honour that knows the path and will not
swerve;
Affections, which, if put to proof, are
kind;
And piety towards God.—Such men of
old
Were England's native growth; and,
throughout Spain,
Forests of such do at this day remain;
Then for that country let our hopes be
bold;
For matched with these shall policy prove
vain,
Her arts, her strength, her iron, and her
gold.

GEORGE III.

NOVEMBER, 1813.

Now that all hearts are glad, all faces
bright,
Our aged Sovereign sits to the ebb and
flow
Of states and kingdoms, to their joy or
woe,

Insensible; he sits deprived of sight,
 And lamentably wrapped in twofold night,
 Whom no weak hopes deceived; whose
 mind ensued,
 Through perilous war, with regal fortitude,
 Peace that should claim respect from lawless might.
 Dread King of kings, vouchsafe a ray divine
 To his forlorn condition! let thy grace
 Upon his inner soul in mercy shine;
 Permit his heart to kindle, and embrace
 (Though were it only for a moment's space)
 The triumphs of this hour; for they are
 THINE!

THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

NOVEMBER 1, 1815.

How clear, how keen, how marvellously bright
 The effluence from yon mountain's distant head,
 Which, strown with snow as smooth as heaven can shed,
 Shines like another sun—on mortal sight
 Uprisen, as if to check approaching night,
 And all her twinkling stars. Who now
 would tread,
 If so he might, yon mountain's glittering head—
 Terrestrial—but a surface, by the flight
 Of sad mortality's earth-sullying wing,
 Unswapt, unstained? Nor shall the
 aerial powers
 Dissolve that beauty—destined to endure
 White, radiant, spotless, exquisitely pure,
 Through all vicissitudes—till genial spring
 Have filled the laughing vales with welcome flowers.

CREATIVE ART.

TO B. R. HAYDON, ESQ.

HIGH is our calling, friend! creative
 Art
 (Whether the instrument of words she
 use,
 Or pencil pregnant with ethereal hues)

Demands the service of a mind and heart,
 Though sensitive, yet, in their weakest part,
 Heroically fashioned—to infuse
 Faith in the whispers of the lonely muse,
 While the whole world seems adverse to desert:
 And, oh! when Nature sinks, as oft she may,
 Through long-lived pressure of obscure distress,
 Still to be strenuous for the bright reward,
 And in the soul admit of no decay,—
 Brook no continuance of weak-mindedness:
 Great is the glory, for the strife is hard!

ELEGIAC VERSES.

FEBRUARY, 1816.

"REST, rest, perturbed Earth!
 O rest, thou doleful mother of mankind!"
 A spirit sang in tones more plaintive than the wind;
 "From regions where no evil thing has birth
 I come—thy stains to wash away,
 Thy cherished fetters to unbind,
 To open thy sad eyes upon a milder day!
 —The heavens are thronged with martyrs that have risen
 From out thy noisome prison;
 The penal caverns groan
 With tens of thousands rent from off the tree
 Of hopeful life,—by battle's whirlwind blown
 Into the deserts of Eternity.
 Untipt havoc—victims unslamened!
 But not on high, where madness is resented,
 And murder causes some sad tears to flow,
 Though, from the widely-sweeping blow,
 The choirs of angels spread triumphantly augmented.

"False parent of mankind !
Obdurate, proud, and blind,
I sprinkle thee with soft celestial dews,
Thy lost maternal heart to reinfuse !
Scattering this far-fetched moisture from
my wings,

Upon the act a blessing I implore,
Of which the rivers in their secret springs,
The rivers stained so oft with human
gore,

Are conscious ;—may the like return no
more !

May Discord—for a seraph's care
Shall be attended with a bolder prayer—
May she, who once disturbed the seats
of bliss,

These mortal spheres above,
Be chained for ever to the black abyss !
And thou, O rescued Earth, by peace
and love,

And merciful desires, thy sanctity ap-
prove !"

The spirit ended his mysterious rite,
And the pure vision closed in darkness
infinite.

CONSOLATIONS AMIDST EARTHLY CHANGE.

The Excursion.

POSSESSIONS vanish, and opinions
change,

And passions hold a fluctuating seat :

But, by the storms of circumstance un-
shaken,

And subject neither to eclipse nor wane,

Duty exists ;—immutably survive,

For our support, the measures and the
forms,

Which an abstract intelligence supplies,
Whose kingdom is where time and space
are not :

Of other converse, which mind, soul, and
heart,

Do, with united urgency, require,

What more, that may not perish ? Thou
dread Source,

Prime, self-existing Cause and End of
all,

That in the scale of being fill their
place,

Above our human region, or below,
Set and sustained ;—Thou—who did'st
wrap the cloud

Of infancy around us, that thyself,
Therein, with our simplicity awhile
Might'st hold, on earth, communion un-
disturbed—

Who, from the anarchy of dreaming
sleep,

Or from its death-like void, with punctual
care,

And touch as gentle as the morning
light,

Restorest us, daily, to the powers of
sense,

And reason's steadfast rule—Thou, thou
alone

Art everlasting, and the blessed spirits

Which thou includest, as the sea her
waves :

For adoration thou endurest ; endure

For consciousness the motions of thy
will ;

For apprehension those transcendent
truths

Of the pure Intellect, that stand as
laws

(Submission constituting strength and
power)

Even to thy being's infinite majesty !

This universe shall pass away—a work,

Glorious ! because the shadow of thy
might,

A step, or link, for intercourse with
thee.

Ah ! if the time must come, in which my
feet

No more shall stray where meditation
leads,

By flowing stream, through wood, or
craggy wild,

Loved haunts like these, the unimprisoned
mind

May yet have scope to range among her
own,

Her thoughts, her images, her high
desires.

If the dear faculty of sight should fail,

Still it may be allowed me to remember

What visionary powers of eye and soul

In youth were mine ; when stationed on
the top

Of some huge hill—expectant, I beheld

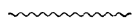
The sun rise up, from distant climes returned,
 Darkness to chase, and sleep, and bring the day
 His bounteous gift ! or saw him, toward the deep,
 Sink—with a retinue of flaming clouds
 Attended ; then my spirit was entranced
 With joy exalted to beatitude ;
 The measure of my soul was filled with bliss,
 And holiest love ; as earth, sea, air, with light,
 With pomp, with glory, with magnificence !



NATURE WORSHIPPED BY THE GREEKS.

—IN that fair clime, the lonely herdsman, stretched
 On the soft grass, through half a summer's day,
 With music lulled his indolent repose :
 And, in some fit of weariness, if he,
 When his own breath was silent, chanced to hear
 A distant strain, far sweeter than the sounds
 Which his poor skill could make, his fancy fetched,
 Even from the blazing chariot of the sun,
 A beardless youth, who touched a golden lute,
 And filled the illumined groves with ravishment.
 The nightly hunter, lifting up his eyes
 Towards the crescent moon, with grateful heart
 Called on the lovely wanderer who bestowed
 That timely light, to share his joyous sport :
 And hence, a beaming goddess with her nymphs,
 Across the lawn and through the darksome grove
 (Not unaccompanied with tuneful notes,
 By echo multiplied from rock or cave),
 Swept in the storm of chase, as moon and stars
 Glance rapidly along the clouded heaven,

When winds are blowing strong. The traveller slaked
 His thirst from rill or gushing fount, and thanked
 The Naiad.—Sunbeams, upon distant hills
 Gliding apace, with shadows in their train,
 Might, with small help from fancy, be transformed
 Into fleet Oreads sporting visibly.
 The Zephyrs, fanning as they passed, their wings,
 Lacked not, for love, fair objects, whom they wooed
 With gentle whisper. Withered boughs grotesque,
 Stripped of their leaves and twigs by hoary age,
 From depth of shaggy covert peeping forth,
 In the low vale, or on steep mountain-side ;
 And sometimes intermixed with stirring horns
 Of the live deer, or goat's depending beard,—
 These were the lurking Satyrs, a wild brood
 Of gamesome deities ; or Pan himself,
 The simple shepherd's awe-inspiring god !



A SIMILE.

WITHIN the soul a faculty abides,
 That with interpositions, which would hide
 And darken, so can deal, that they become
 Contingencies of pomp ; and serve to exalt
 Her native brightness. As the ample Moon,
 In the deep stillness of a summer eve,
 Rising behind a thick and lofty grove,
 Burns like an unconsuming fire of life
 In the green trees ; and, kindling on all sides
 Their leafy umbrage, turns the dusky veil
 Into a substance glorious as her own,
 Yea, with her own incorporated, by power

Capacious and serene ; like power
 abides
 In Man's celestial spirit ; Virtue thus
 Sets forth and magnifies herself ; thus
 feeds
 A calm, a beautiful, and silent fire,
 From the encumbrances of mortal life,
 From error, disappointment,—nay, from
 guilt ;
 And sometimes, so relenting Justice
 wills,
 From palpable oppressions of Despair.

~~~~~

### INTIMATIONS OF IMMORTALITY FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD.

#### I.

THERE was a time when meadow, grove,  
 and stream,  
 The earth, and every common sight,  
 To me did seem  
 Apparell'd in celestial light,  
 The glory and the freshness of a dream.  
 It is not now as it has been of yore ;—  
 Turn wheresoe'er I may,  
 By night or day,  
 The things which I have seen I now can  
 see no more !

#### II.

The rainbow comes and goes,  
 And lovely is the rose,—  
 The moon doth with delight  
 Look round her when the heavens are  
 bare ;  
 Waters on a starry night  
 Are beautiful and fair ;  
 The sunshine is a glorious birth ;  
 But yet I know, where'er I go,  
 That there hath passed away a glory from  
 the earth.

#### III.

Now, while the birds thus sing a joyous  
 song,  
 And while the young lambs bound  
 As to the tabor's sound,

To me alone there came a thought of  
 grief ;  
 A timely utterance gave that thought relief,  
 And I again am strong.  
 The cataracts blow their trumpets from  
 the steep,—  
 No more shall grief of mine the season  
 wrong :  
 I hear the echoes through the mountains  
 throng,  
 The winds come to me from the fields of  
 sleep,  
 And all the earth is gay ;  
 Land and sea  
 Give themselves up to jollity,  
 And with the heart of May  
 Doth every beast keep holiday ;—  
 Thou child of joy,  
 Shout round me, let me hear thy shouts,  
 thou happy shepherd boy!

#### IV.

Ye bless'd creatures, I have heard the  
 call  
 Ye to each other make ; I see  
 The heavens laugh with you in your  
 jubilee ;  
 My heart is at your festival,  
 My head hath its coronal,  
 The fulness of your bliss, I feel—I feel it  
 all.  
 Oh evil day ! if I were sullen  
 While the earth herself is adorning,  
 This sweet May morning ;  
 And the children are pulling,  
 On every side,  
 In a thousand valleys far and wide,  
 Fresh flowers ; while the sun shines  
 warm  
 And the babe leaps up on his mother's  
 arm :—  
 I hear, I hear, with joy I hear !  
 —But there's a tree, of many one,  
 A single field which I have looked  
 upon,  
 Both of them speak of something that is  
 gone :  
 The pansy at my feet  
 Doth the same tale repeat :  
 Whither is fled the visionary gleam ?  
 Where is it now, the glory and the  
 dream ?

## V.

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting :  
 The soul that rises with us, our life's star,  
 Hath had elsewhere its setting,  
 And cometh from afar ;  
 Not in entire forgetfulness,  
 And not in utter nakedness,  
 But trailing clouds of glory do we come  
 From God, who is our home :  
 Heaven lies about us in our infancy !  
 Shades of the prison-house begin to close  
 Upon the growing boy,  
 But he beholds the light, and whence it  
 flows,  
 He sees it in his joy ;  
 The youth, who daily farther from the  
 east  
 Must travel, still is Nature's priest,  
 And by the vision splendid  
 Is on his way attended ;  
 At length the man perceives it die away,  
 And fade into the light of common day.

## VI.

Earth fills her lap with pleasures of her  
 own ;  
 Yearnings she hath in her own natural  
 kind,  
 And, even with something of a mother's  
 mind,  
 And no unworthy aim,  
 The homely nurse doth all she can  
 To make her foster-child, her inmate  
 man,  
 Forget the glories he hath known,  
 And that imperial palace whence he  
 came.

## VII.

Behold the child among his new-born  
 blisses,  
 A six years' darling of a pigmy size !  
 See, where 'mid work of his own hand he  
 lies,  
 Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,  
 With light upon him from his father's  
 eyes !  
 See, at his feet, some little plan or chart,  
 Some fragment from his dream of human  
 life,  
 Shaped by himself with newly-learned  
 art ;

A wedding or a festival,  
 A mourning or a funeral ;  
 And this hath now his heart,  
 And unto this he frames his song :  
 Then will he fit his tongue  
 To dialogues of business, love, or strife ;  
 But it will not be long  
 Ere this be thrown aside,  
 And with new joy and pride  
 The little actor cons another part ;  
 Filling from time to time his "humorous  
 stage"  
 With all the persons, down to palsied age,  
 That Life brings with her in her equipage ;  
 As if his whole vocation  
 Were endless imitation.

## VIII.

Thou, whose exterior semblance doth  
 belie  
 Thy soul's immensity ;  
 Thou best philosopher, who yet dost  
 keep  
 Thy heritage ; thou eye among the blind,  
 That, deaf and silent, read'st the eternal  
 deep,  
 Haunted for ever by the eternal mind,—  
 Mighty Prophet ! Seer blest !  
 On whom those truths do rest,  
 Which we are toiling all our lives to  
 find ;  
 Thou, over whom thy immortality  
 Broods like the day, a master o'er a slave,  
 A presence which is not to be put by ;  
 Thou little child, yet glorious in the  
 might  
 Of heaven-born freedom, on thy being's  
 height,  
 Why with such earnest pains dost thou  
 provoke  
 The years to bring th' inevitable yoke,  
 Thus blindly with thy blessedness at  
 strife.  
 Full soon thy soul shall have her earthly  
 freight,  
 And custom lie upon thee with a weight,  
 Heavy as frost, and deep almost as life !

## IX.

O joy ! that in our embers  
 Is something that doth live,  
 That Nature yet remembers  
 What was so fugitive !

The thought of our past years in me doth  
breed

Perpetual benedictions : not indeed  
For that which is most worthy to be  
blessed ;

Delight and liberty, the simple creed  
Of childhood, whether busy or at rest,  
With new-fledged hope still fluttering in  
his breast :

Not for these I raise

The song of thanks and praise ;  
But for those obstinate questionings  
Of sense and outward things,  
Fallings from us, vanishings ;  
Black misgivings of a creature

Moving about in worlds not realized,  
High instincts, before which our mortal  
nature

Did tremble like a guilty thing surprised !  
But for those first affections,  
Those shadowy recollections,

Which, be they what they may,  
Are yet the fountain light of all our  
day,

Are yet a master light of all our  
seeing ;

Uphold us—cherish—and have power  
to make

Our noisy years seem moments in the  
being

Of the eternal silence : truths that wake,  
To perish never ;

Which neither listlessness, nor mad  
endeavour,

Nor man nor boy,  
Nor all that is at enmity with joy,  
Can utterly abolish or destroy !

Hence, in a season of calm weather,  
Though inland far we be,

Our souls have sight of that immortal sea  
Which brought us hither ;

Can in a moment travel thither,—  
And see the children sport upon the  
shore,

And hear the mighty waters rolling ever-  
more.

#### X.

Then, sing ye birds, sing, sing a joyous  
song !

And let the young lambs bound  
As to the tabor's sound !

We, in thought will join your throng,

Ye that pipe and ye that play,  
Ye that through your hearts to day  
Feel the gladness of the May !

What though the radiance which was  
once so bright

Be now for ever taken from my sight,  
Though nothing can bring back the  
hour

Of splendour in the grass, of glory in the  
flower ;

We will grieve not, rather find  
Strength in what remains behind,  
In the primal sympathy  
Which having been, must ever be ;  
In the soothing thoughts that spring  
Out of human suffering ;  
In the faith that looks through  
death,

In years that bring the philosophic  
mind.

#### XI.

And oh ye fountains, meadows, hills, and  
groves,

Think not of any severing of our loves !  
Yet in my heart of hearts I feel your  
might ;

I only have relinquished one delight,  
To live beneath your more habitual  
sway.

I love the brooks, which down their  
channels fret,

Even more than when I tripped lightly as  
they :

The innocent brightness of a new-born  
day

Is lovely yet ;

The clouds that gather round the setting  
sun

Do take a sober colouring from an  
eye

That hath kept watch o'er man's mor-  
tality ;

Another race hath been, and other palms  
are won.

Thanks to the human heart by which we  
live ;

Thanks to its tenderness, its joys and  
fears ;

To me the meanest flower that blows can  
give

Thoughts that do often lie too deep for  
tears.

[THOMAS MOORE. 1779—1852.]

## PARADISE AND THE PERI.

*Lalla Rookh.*

ONE morn a Peri at the gate  
Of Eden stood, disconsolate ;  
And as she listened to the Springs  
Of Life within, like music flowing,  
And caught the light upon her wings  
Through the half-open portal glowing,  
She wept to think her recreant race  
Should e'er have lost that glorious  
place !

"How happy !" exclaimed this child of  
air,

"Are the holy spirits who wander there,  
'Mid flowers that never shall fade or  
fall ;

Though mine are the gardens of earth  
and sea, [me,

And the stars themselves have flowers for  
One blossom of heaven outblossoms them  
all !

Though sunny the Lake of cool Cash-  
mere,

With its plane-tree isle reflected clear,  
And sweetly the founts of that valley  
fall :

Though bright are the waters of Sing-su-  
hay, [stray,

And the golden floods, that thitherward  
Yet—oh, 'tis only the blest can say

How the waters of heaven outshine  
them all !

"Go, wing thy flight from star to star,  
From world to luminous world, as far

As the universe spreads its flaming  
wall ;

Take all the pleasures of all the spheres,  
And multiply each through endless years,

One minute of heaven is worth them all !"

The glorious Angel, who was keeping  
The gates of Light, beheld her weeping ;  
And, as he nearer drew and listened  
To her sad song, a tear-drop glistened  
Within his eyelids, like the spray

From Eden's fountain, when it lies  
On the blue flower, which—Bramins  
say—

Blooms nowhere but in Paradise !

"Nymph of a fair, but erring line !"

Gently he said—"one hope is thine.

'Tis written in the Book of Fate,

*The Peri yet may be forgiven*

*Who brings to this Eternal Gate*

*The Gift that is most dear to Heaven !*

Go, seek it, and redeem thy sin ;—

'Tis sweet to let the Pardoned in !"

Rapidly as comets run

To th' embraces of the sun :—

Fleeter than the starry brands,

Flung at night from angel hands

At those dark and daring sprites,

Who would climb th' empyreal heights,

Down the blue vault the Peri flies,

And, lighted earthward by a glance

That just then broke from morning's

eyes,

Hung hovering o'er our world's ex-

pance.

But whither shall the Spirit go

To find this gift for Heaven ?—"I know

The wealth," she cries, "of every urn,

In which unnumbered rubies burn,

Beneath the pillars of Chilminar ;—

I know where the Isles of Perfume are

Many a fathom down in the sea,

To the south of sun-bright Araby ;—

I know too where the Genii hid

The jewelled cup of their king Jamshid,

With life's elixir sparkling high—

But gifts like these are not for the sky.

Where was there ever a gem that shone

Like the steps of Allah's wonderful  
throne ?

And the Drops of Life—oh ! what would

they be

In the boundless Deep of Eternity ?"



## BENDEMEER'S STREAM.

THERE'S a bower of roses by Bende-  
meer's stream,

And the nightingale sings round it all  
the day long ;

In the time of my childhood 'twas like a  
sweet dream,

To sit in the roses and hear the bird's  
song.

That bower and its music I never forget,  
 But oft when alone in the bloom of  
 the year, [yet ?  
 I think—is the nightingale singing there  
 Are the roses still bright by the calm  
 Bendemeer ?

No, the roses soon withered that hung  
 o'er the wave,  
 But some blossoms were gathered,  
 while freshly they shone,  
 And a dew was distilled from their  
 flowers, that gave  
 All the fragrance of summer, when  
 summer was gone. [dies,  
 Thus memory draws from delight, e'er it  
 An essence that breathes of it many a  
 year ;  
 Thus bright to my soul, as 'twas then to  
 my eyes,  
 Is that bower on the banks of the calm  
 Bendemeer !

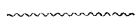


### DISAPPOINTED HOPES.

I KNEW, I knew it could not last—  
 'Twas bright, 'twas heavenly, but 'tis  
 past !  
 Oh ! ever thus, from childhood's hour,  
 I've seen my fondest hopes decay ;  
 I never loved a tree or flower,  
 But 'twas the first to fade away.  
 I never nursed a dear gazelle,  
 To glad me with its soft black eye,  
 But when it came to know me well,  
 And love me, it was sure to die !  
 Now too—the joy most like divine  
 Of all I ever dreamt or knew,  
 To see thee, hear thee, call thee mine,—  
 Oh, misery ! must I lose that too ?  
 Yet go—on peril's brink we meet ;—  
 Those frightful rocks—that treacherous  
 sea—  
 No, never come again—though sweet,  
 Though heaven, it may be death to  
 thee.  
 Farewell—and blessings on thy way,  
 Where'er thou go'st, beloved stranger !  
 Better to sit and watch that ray,  
 And think thee safe, though far away,  
 Than have thee near me, and in  
 danger !

### A CURSE.

OH, for a tongue to curse the slave,  
 Whose treason, like a deadly blight,  
 Comes o'er the councils of the brave,  
 And blasts them in their hour of  
 might !  
 May life's unblest cup for him  
 Be drugged with treacheries to the brim,—  
 With hopes, that but allure to fly,  
 With joys, that vanish while he sips,  
 Like Dead-Sea fruits, that tempt the eye,  
 But turn to ashes on the lips !  
 His country's curse, his children's shame,  
 Outcasts of virtue, peace, and fame,  
 May he, at last, with lips of flame  
 On the parched desert thirsting die,—  
 While lakes that shone in mockery nigh  
 Are fading off, untouched, untasted,  
 Like the once glorious hopes he blasted !  
 And, when from earth his spirit flies,  
 Just Prophet, let the damned-one dwell  
 Full in the sight of Paradise,  
 Beholding heaven, and feeling hell !



### THE TEARS OF REPENTANCE.

BLEST tears of soul-felt penitence !  
 In whose benign, redeeming flow  
 Is felt the first, the only sense  
 Of guiltless joy that guilt can know.  
 "There's a drop," said the Peri, "that  
 down from the moon  
 Falls through the withering airs of June  
 Upon Egypt's land, of so healing a power,  
 So balmy a virtue, that e'en in the hour  
 That drop descends, contagion dies,  
 And health reanimates earth and skies !—  
 Oh ! is it not thus, thou man of sin,  
 The precious tears of repentance fall ?  
 Though foul thy fiery plagues within,  
 One heavenly drop hath dispelled them  
 all !"  
 And now—behold him kneeling there  
 By the child's side, in humble prayer,  
 While the same sunbeam shines upon  
 The guilty and the guiltless one,  
 And hymns of joy proclaim through  
 heaven  
 The triumph of a soul forgiven !  
 'Twas when the golden orb had set,  
 While on their knees they lingered yet,

There fell a light, more lovely far  
Than ever came from sun or star,  
Upon the tear that, warm and meek,  
Dewed that repentant sinner's cheek :  
To mortal eye this light might seem  
A northern flash or meteor beam—  
But well th' enraptured Peri knew  
'Twas a bright smile the Angel threw  
From heaven's gate, to hail that tear  
Her harbinger of glory near !

"Joy, joy for ever ! my task is done—  
The Gates are passed, and Heaven is won !

Oh ! am I not happy ? I am, I am—  
To thee, sweet Eden ! how dark and sad  
Are the diamond turrets of Shadukiam,  
And the fragrant bowers of Amberabad !

"Farewell, ye odours of earth, that die,  
Passing away like a lover's sigh !—  
My feast is now of the tooba tree,  
Whose scent is the breath of eternity !

"Farewell, ye vanishing flowers, that shone  
In my fairy-wreath, so bright and brief,—

Oh ! what are the brightest that e'er have blown,  
To the lote tree, springing by Alla's Throne, [leaf !

Whose flowers have a soul in every  
Joy, joy for ever !—my task is done—  
The Gates are passed, and Heaven is won !"

#### MONODY ON THE DEATH OF SHERIDAN.

YES, grief will have way—but the fast-falling tear  
Shall be mingled with deep execrations  
on those [career,  
Who could bask in that spirit's meridian  
And yet leave it thus lonely and dark  
at its close :—

Whose vanity flew round him, only while fed [time gave ;—  
By the odour his fame in its summer-

Whose vanity now, with quick scent for the dead,  
Like the Ghole of the East, comes to feed at his grave.

Oh ! it sickens the heart to see bosoms so hollow,  
And spirits so mean in the great and high-born ;  
To think what a long line of titles may follow [and lorn !  
The relics of him who died—friendless

How proud they can press to the funeral array  
Of one, whom they shunned in his sickness and sorrow :  
How bailiffs may seize his last blanket to-day, [to-morrow !  
Whose pall shall be heid up by nobles

And Thou, too, whose life, a sick epicure's dream, [passed,  
Incoherent and gross, even grosser had  
Were it not for that cordial and soul-giving beam,  
Which his friendship and wit o'er thy nothingness cast :—

No, not for the wealth of the land, that supplies thee  
With millions to heap upon Foppery's shrine ;— [thee,  
No, not for the riches of all who despise  
Tho' this would make Europe's whole opulence mine ;—

Would I suffer what—ev'n in the heart that thou hast—  
All mean as it is—must have consciously burned,  
When the pittance, which shame had wrung from thee at last,  
And which found all his wants at an end, was returned !

"Was this, then, the fate"—future ages will say,  
When some names shall live but in history's curse ;  
When the truth will be heard, and these lords of a day [as worse ;  
Be forgotten as fools, or remembered



"Was this then the fate of that high-gifted man,  
The pride of the palace, the bower  
and the hall,  
The orator—dramatist—minstrel—who  
ran  
Through each mode of the lyre, and  
was master of all ?

"Whose mind was an essence, com-  
pounded with art  
From the finest and best of all other  
men's powers ;  
Who ruled like a wizard, the world of  
the heart,  
And could call up its sunshine, or bring  
down its showers ;

"Whose humour, as gay as the fire-fly's  
light,  
Played round every subject, and shone  
as it played ;

Whose wit, in the combat, as gentle as  
bright,  
Ne'er carried a heart-stain away on its  
blade ;—

"Whose eloquence brightening whatever  
it tried,  
Whether reason or fancy, the gay or  
the grave,—  
as as rapid, as deep, and as brilliant a  
tide,  
As ever bore Freedom aloft on its  
wave !"

Yes—such was the man, and so wretched  
his fate ;—

And thus, sooner or later, shall all  
have to grieve,  
Who waste their morn's dew in the beams  
of the great,  
And expect 'twill return to refresh  
them at eve.

In the woods of the North, there are  
insects that prey  
On the brain of the elk till his very last  
sigh !

Oh, genius ! thy patrons, more cruel than  
they,  
First feed on thy brains, and then  
leave thee to die.

### HAVE YOU NOT SEEN THE TIMID TEAR.

HAVE you not seen the timid tear  
Steal trembling from mine eye ?  
Have you not marked the flush of fear,  
Or caught the murmured sigh ?  
And can you think my love is chill,  
Nor fixed on you alone ?  
And can you rend, by doubting still,  
A heart so much your own ?

To you my soul's affections move  
Devoutly, warmly true ;  
My life has been a task of love,  
One long, long thought of you.  
If all your tender faith is o'er,  
If still my truth you'll try ;  
Alas ! I know but one proof more,—  
I'll bless your name, and die !

### WHEN TIME, WHO STEALS.

WHEN Time, who steals our years away  
Shall steal our pleasures too,  
The memory of the past will stay,  
And half our joys renew.

Then, Chloe, when thy beauty's flower  
Shall feel the wintry air,  
Remembrance will recall the hour  
When thou alone wert fair !

Then talk no more of future gloom ;  
Our joys shall always last ;  
For hope shall brighten days to come,  
And memory gild the past !

Come, Chloe, fill the genial bowl,  
I drink to Love and thee :  
Thou never canst decay in soul,  
Thou'lt still be young for me.

And as thy lips the tear-drop chase  
Which on my cheek they find,  
So hope shall steal away the trace  
Which sorrow leaves behind !

Then fill the bowl—away the gloom !  
Our joys shall always last ;  
For hope shall brighten days to come,  
And memory gild the past !

But mark, at thought of future years  
 When love shall lose its soul,  
 My Chloe drops her timid tears,  
 They mingle with my bowl!

How like this bowl of wine, my fair,  
 Our loving life shall fleet;  
 Though tears may sometimes mingle there,  
 The draught will still be sweet!

Then fill the bowl—away with gloom!  
 Our joys shall always last;  
 For hope will brighten days to come,  
 And memory gild the past

#### A CANADIAN BOAT-SONG.

FAINTLY as tolls the evening chime,  
 Our voices keep tune and our oars keep  
 time.

Soon as the woods on shore look dim,  
 We'll sing at St. Ann's our parting hymn.  
 Row, brothers, row! the stream runs fast,  
 The rapids are near, and the daylight's  
 past!

Why should we yet our sail unfurl?  
 There is not a breath the blue wave to  
 curl!

But, when the wind blows off the shore,  
 Oh! sweetly we'll rest our weary oar.  
 Blow, breezes, blow! the stream runs fast,  
 The rapids are near, and the daylight's  
 past!

Ottawa's tide! this trembling moon  
 Shall see us float over thy surges soon.  
 Saint of this green isle! hear our prayers,  
 Oh! grant us cool heavens and favouring  
 airs.

Blow, breezes, blow! the stream runs fast,  
 The rapids are near, and the daylight's  
 past!

#### GO WHERE GLORY WAITS THEE.

Go where glory waits thee,  
 But while fame elates thee,  
 Oh! still remember me.

When the praise thou meetest  
 To thine ear is sweetest,  
 Oh! then remember me.  
 Other arms may press thee,  
 Dearer friends caress thee,  
 All the joys that bless thee  
 Sweeter far may be;  
 But when friends are nearest,  
 And when joys are dearest,  
 Oh! then remember me.

When at eve thou rovest  
 By the star thou lovest,  
 Oh! then remember me.  
 Think, when home returning,  
 Bright we've seen it burning.  
 Oh! thus remember me.  
 Oft as summer closes,  
 When thine eye reposes  
 On its lingering roses,  
 Once so loved by thee,  
 Think of her who wove them,  
 Her who made thee love them,  
 Oh! then remember me.

When, around thee dying,  
 Autumn leaves are lying,  
 Oh! then remember me.  
 And, at night, when gazing  
 On the gay hearth blazing,  
 Oh! still remember me.  
 Then, should music, stealing  
 All the soul of feeling,  
 To thy heart appealing,  
 Draw one tear from thee;  
 Then let memory bring thee  
 Strains I used to sing thee,—  
 Oh! then remember me.

#### MARY, I BELIEVED THEE TRUE

MARY, I believed thee true,  
 And I was blest in thus believing;  
 But now I mourn that e'er I knew  
 A girl so fair and so deceiving!

Few have ever loved liked me,—  
 Oh! I have loved thee too sincerely  
 And few have e'er deceived like thee,—  
 Alas! deceived me too severely!

Fare thee well! yet think awhile  
 On one whose bosom bleeds to doubt  
 thee ;  
 Who now would rather trust that smile,  
 And die with thee than live without  
 thee !

Fare thee well! I'll think of thee,  
 Thou leav'st me many a bitter token ;  
 For see, distracting woman! see,  
 My peace is gone, my heart is broken!—  
 Fare thee well !

### WHY DOES AZURE DECK THE SKY?

WHY does azure deck the sky?  
 'Tis to be like thine eyes of blue ;  
 Why is red the rose's dye?  
 Because it is thy blushes' hue.  
 All that's fair, by Love's decree,  
 Has been made resembling thee !

Why is falling snow so white,  
 But to be like thy bosom fair?  
 Why are golden beams so bright?  
 That they may seem thy golden hair!  
 All that's bright, by Love's decree,  
 Has been made resembling thee !

Why are nature's beauties felt?  
 Oh! 'tis thine in her we see!  
 Why has music power to melt?  
 Oh! because it speaks like thee.  
 All that's sweet, by Love's decree,  
 Has been made resembling thee !

### OH! BREATHE NOT HIS NAME.

OH! breathe not his name, let it sleep in  
 the shade,  
 Where cold and unhonoured his relics are  
 laid ; [shed,  
 Sad, silent, and dark be the tears that we  
 As the night-dew that falls on the grass  
 o'er his head.

But the night-dew that falls, though in  
 silence it weeps,  
 Shall brighten with verdure the grave  
 where he sleeps ;

And the tear that we shed, though in  
 secret it rolls,  
 Shall long keep his memory green in our  
 souls.

### WHEN HE WHO ADORES THEE.

WHEN he who adores thee has left but  
 the name  
 Of his fault and his sorrows behind,  
 Oh! say, wilt thou weep, when they  
 darken the fame  
 Of a life that for thee was resigned?  
 Yes, weep, and however my foes may  
 condemn,  
 Thy tears shall efface their decree ;  
 For Heaven can witness, though guilty to  
 them,  
 I have been but too faithful to thee.

With thee were the dreams of my earliest  
 love ;  
 Every thought of my reason was thine ;  
 In my last humble prayer to the Spirit  
 above,  
 Thy name shall be mingled with mine.  
 Oh! blest are the lovers and friends who  
 shall live  
 The days of thy glory to see ;  
 But the next dearest blessing that Heaven  
 can give  
 Is the pride of thus dying for thee.

### THE HARP THAT ONCE THROUGH TARA'S HALLS.

THE harp that once through Tara's halls,  
 The soul of music shed,  
 Now hangs as mute on Tara's walls  
 As if that soul were fled.  
 So sleeps the pride of former days,  
 So glory's thrill is o'er,  
 And hearts, that once beat high for praise,  
 Now feel that pulse no more.

No more to chiefs and ladies bright  
 The harp of Tara swells:  
 The chord alone, that breaks at night,  
 Its tale of ruin tells.  
 Thus Freedom now so seldom wakes,  
 The only throb she gives  
 Is when some heart indignant breaks,  
 To show that still she lives.

## FLY NOT YET.

FLY not yet ; 'tis just the hour  
When pleasure, like the midnight flower  
That scorns the eye of vulgar light,  
Begins to bloom for sons of night,  
And maids who love the moon.

'Twas but to bless these hours of shade  
That beauty and the moon were made ;  
'Tis then their soft attractions glowing  
Set the tides and goblets flowing.

Oh ! stay,—oh ! stay,—  
Joy so seldom weaves a chain  
Like this to-night, that, oh ! 'tis pain  
To break its links so soon.

Fly not yet ; the fount that played  
In times of old through Ammon's shade,  
Though icy cold by day it ran,  
Yet still, like souls of mirth, began  
To burn when night was near ;  
And thus should woman's heart and looks  
At noon be cold as winter brooks,  
Nor kindle till the night, returning,  
Brings their genial hour for burning.

Oh ! stay,—oh ! stay,—  
When did morning ever break,  
And find such beaming eyes awake  
As those that sparkle here ?

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RICH AND RARE WERE THE
GEMS SHE WORE.

RICH and rare were the gems she wore,
And a bright gold ring on her wand she
bore ;

But, oh ! her beauty was far beyond
Her sparkling gems or snow-white wand.

"Lady, dost thou not fear to stray,
So lone and lovely, through this bleak
way ?

Are Erin's sons so good or so cold.
As not to be tempted by woman or gold ?"

"Sir Knight ! I feel not the least alarm,
No son of Erin will offer me harm :
For, though they love women and golden
store,

Sir Knight ! they love honour and virtue
more."

On she went, and her maiden smile
In safety lighted her round the green isle ;
And blest for ever is she who relied
Upon Erin's honour and Erin's pride.

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AS A BEAM O'ER THE FACE OF  
THE WATERS MAY GLOW.

As a beam o'er the face of the waters  
may glow,  
While the tide runs in darkness and cold-  
ness below,  
So the cheek may be tinged with a warm  
sunny smile,  
Though the cold heart to ruin runs darkly  
the while.

One fatal remembrance, one sorrow that  
throws  
Its bleak shade alike o'er our joys and our  
woes,  
To which life nothing darker, or brighter  
can bring,  
For which joy has no balm and affliction  
no sting :

Oh ! this thought in the midst of enjoy-  
ment will stay,  
Like a dead leafless branch in the sum-  
mer's bright ray,  
The beams of the warm sun play round  
it in vain,  
It may smile in his light, but it blooms  
not again.

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THE MEETING OF THE WATERS.

THERE is not in the wide world a valley
so sweet,
As that vale in whose bosom the bright
waters meet ;
Oh ! the last rays of feeling and life must
depart,
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade
from my heart.

Yet it was not that Nature had shed o'er
the scene
Her purest of crystal and brightest of
green ;

'Twas not her soft magic of streamlet or hill,
Oh! no—it was something more exquisite still.

'Twas that friends, the beloved of my bosom, were near,
Who made every dear scene of enchantment more dear,
And who felt how the best charms of Nature improve,
When we see them reflected from looks that we love.

I SAW THY FORM IN YOUTHFUL PRIME.

I SAW thy form in youthful prime,
Nor thought that pale decay
Would steal before the steps of Time,
And waste its bloom away, Mary!
Yet still thy features wore that light,
Which fleets not with the breath;
And life ne'er looked more truly bright
Than in thy smile of death, Mary!

As streams that run o'er golden mines,
Yet humbly, calmly glide,
Nor seem to know the wealth that shines
Within their gentle tide, Mary!
So, veiled beneath the simplest guise,
Thy radiant genius shone,
And that which charmed all other eyes
Seemed worthless in thine own, Mary!

If souls could always dwell above,
Thou ne'er hadst left that sphere;
Or could we keep the souls we love,
We ne'er had lost thee here, Mary!
Though many a gifted mind we meet,
Though fairest forms we see,
To live with them is far less sweet
Than to remember thee, Mary!

SHE IS FAR FROM THE LAND.

SHE is far from the land where her young hero sleeps,
And lovers are round her sighing;
But coldly she turns from their gaze, and weeps,
For her heart in his grave is lying.

She sings the wild songs of her dear native plains,

Every note which he loved awaking;—
Ah! little they think, who delight in her strains,
How the heart of the Minstrel is breaking.

He had lived for his love, for his country he died, [him;
They were all that to life had entwined
Nor soon shall the tears of his country be dried,
Nor long will his love stay behind him.

Oh! make her a grave where the sun-beams rest
When they promise a glorious morrow;
They'll shine o'er her sleep, like a smile from the West,
From her own loved island of sorrow.

BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS.

BELIEVE me, if all those endearing young charms,
Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,
Were to change by to-morrow, and fleet in my arms,
Like fairy-gifts fading away,
Thou wouldst still be adored, as this moment thou art,
Let thy loveliness fade as it will,
And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart
Would entwine itself verdantly still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,
And thy cheeks unprofaned by a tear,
That the fervour and faith of a soul can be known,
To which time will but make thee more dear;
No, the heart that has truly loved never forgets,
But as truly loves on to the close,
As the sun-flower turns on her god, when he sets,
The same look which she turned when he rose.

DRINK TO HER.

DRINK to her who long
 Hath waked the poet's sigh,
 The girl who gave to song
 What gold could never buy.
 Oh ! woman's heart was made
 For minstrel hands alone ;
 By other fingers played,
 It yields not half the tone.
 Then here's to her who long
 Hath waked the poet's sigh,
 The girl who gave to song
 What gold could never buy.

At Beauty's door of glass
 When Wealth and Wit once stood,
 They asked her, "which might pass?"
 She answered, "he who could."
 With golden key Wealth thought
 To pass—but 'twould not do:
 While Wit a diamond brought,
 Which cut his bright way through.
 So here's to her who long
 Hath waked the poet's sigh,
 The girl who gave to song
 What gold could never buy.

The love that seeks a home
 Where wealth and grandeur shines,
 Is like the gloomy gnome
 That dwells in dark gold mines.
 But oh ! the poet's love
 Can boast a brighter sphere ;
 Its native home's above,
 Though woman keeps it here.
 Then drink to her who long
 Hath waked the poet's sigh,
 The girl who gave to song
 What gold could never buy.

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OH ! BLAME NOT THE BARD.

Oh ! blame not the bard, if he fly to the  
 bowers  
 Where Pleasure lies, carelessly smiling  
 at Fame,  
 He was born for much more, and in hap-  
 pier hours  
 His soul might have burned with a  
 holier flame ;

The string that now languishes loose o'er  
 the lyre,  
 Might have bent a proud bow to the  
 warrior's dart ;  
 And the lip, which now breathes but the  
 song of desire,  
 Might have poured the full tide of a  
 patriot's heart.

But, alas for his country !—her pride has  
 gone by,  
 And that spirit is broken, which never  
 would bend ;  
 O'er the ruin her children in secret must  
 sign,  
 For 'tis treason to love her, and death  
 to defend.  
 Unprized are her sons, till they've learned  
 to betray ;  
 Undistinguished they live, if they shame  
 not their sires ;  
 And the torch, that would light them  
 through dignity's way,  
 Must be caught from the pile where  
 their country expires.

Then blame not the bard, if in pleasure's  
 soft dream  
 He should try to forget what he never  
 can heal ;  
 Oh ! give but a hope—let a vista but  
 gleam  
 Through the gloom of his country, and  
 mark how he'll feel !  
 Every passion it nursed, every bliss it  
 adored,  
 That instant, his heart at her shrine  
 would lay down ;  
 While the myrtle, now idly entwined  
 with his crown,  
 Like the wreath of Harmodius, should  
 cover his sword.

But though glory be gone, and though  
 hope fade away,  
 Thy name, loved Erin, shall live in his  
 songs ;  
 Not even in the hour, when his heart is  
 most gay,  
 Will he lose the remembrance of thee  
 and thy wrongs.

The stranger shall hear thy lament on his plains ;  
 The sigh of thy harp shall be sent o'er the deep,  
 Till thy masters themselves, as they rivet thy chains,  
 Shall pause at the song of their captive, and weep !

### LOVE'S YOUNG DREAM.

Oh ! the days are gone, when Beauty bright

My heart's chain wove ;

When my dream of life from morn till night

Was love, still love.

New hope may bloom,

And days may come

Of milder, calmer beam,

But there's nothing half so sweet in life

As love's young dream :

No, there's nothing half so sweet in life

As love's young dream.

Though the bard to purer fame may soar,  
 When wild youth's past ;

Though he wins the wise, who frowned before,

To smile at last ;

He'll never meet

A joy so sweet,

In all his noon of fame,

As when first he sung to woman's ear

His soul-felt flame,

And, at every close, she blushed to hear  
 The one loved name.

No—that hallowed form is ne'er forgot

Which first love traced ;

Still it lingering haunts the greenest spot

On memory's waste.

'Twas odour fled

As soon as shed ;

'Twas morning's winged dream ;

'Twas a light that ne'er can shine again

On life's dull stream :

Oh ! 'twas light that ne'er can shine again

On life's dull stream.

### LESBIA HATH A BEAMING EYE.

LESBIA hath a beaming eye,

But no one knows for whom it beameth ;

Right and left its arrows fly,

But what they aim at no one dreameth

Sweeter 'tis to gaze upon

My Nora's lid that seldom rises ;

Few its looks, but every one,

Like unexpected light, surprises.

O my Nora Creina, dear,

My gentle, bashful Nora Creina,

Beauty lies

In many eyes,

But love in yours, my Nora Creina !

Lesbia wears a robe of gold,

But all so close the nymph hath laced it,

Not a charm of beauty's mould

Presumes to stay where Nature placed it.

Oh, my Nora's gown for me,

That floats as wild as mountain breezes,

Leaving every beauty free

To sink or swell as Heaven pleases.

Yes, my Nora Creina, dear,

My simple, graceful Nora Creina,

Nature's dress

Is loveliness—

The dress you wear, my Nora Creina.

Lesbia hath a wit refined,

But when its points are gleaming round us,

Who can tell if they're designed

To dazzle merely, or to wound us ?

Pillowed on my Nora's heart

In safer slumber Love reposes—

Bed of peace ! whose roughest part

Is but the crumpling of the roses.

O my Nora Creina, dear.

My mild, my artless Nora Creina,

Wit, though bright,

Hath no such light

As warms your eyes, my Nora Creina

### O THE SHAMROCK !

THROUGH Erin's Isle,

To sport awhile,

As Love and Valour wandered,  
 With Wit, the sprite,  
 Whose quiver bright  
 A thousand arrows squandered ;  
 Where'er they pass,  
 A triple grass  
 Shoots up, with dew-drops stream-  
 ing,  
 As softly green  
 As emerald seen  
 Through purest crystal gleaming.  
 O the Shamrock, the green, immortal  
 Shamrock !

Chosen leaf  
 Of Bard and Chief,  
 Old Erin's native Shamrock !

Says Valour, " See,  
 They spring for me,  
 Those leafy gems of morning !"—  
 Says Love, " No, no,  
 For me they grow,  
 My fragrant path adorning."  
 But Wit perceives  
 The triple leaves,  
 And cries, " Oh ! do not sever  
 A type that blends  
 Three godlike friends,  
 Love, Valour, Wit, for ever !"  
 O the Shamrock, the green, immortal  
 Shamrock !

Chosen leaf  
 Of Bard and Chief,  
 Old Erin's native Shamrock !

So firmly fond  
 May last the bond  
 They wove that morn together,  
 And ne'er may fall  
 One drop of gall  
 On Wit's celestial feather !  
 May Love, as twine  
 His flowers divine,  
 Of thorny falsehood weed 'em !  
 May Valour ne'er  
 His standard rear  
 Against the cause of Freedom !  
 O the Shamrock, the green, immortal  
 Shamrock !

Chosen leaf  
 Of Bard and Chief,  
 Old Erin's native Shamrock !

### AT THE MID HOUR OF NIGHT.

At the mid hour of night, when stars are  
 weeping, I fly  
 To the lone vale we loved, when life  
 shone warm in thine eye ;  
 And I think oft, if spirits can steal  
 from the regions of air,  
 To revisit past scenes of delight, thou  
 wilt come to me there,  
 And tell me our love is remembered, even  
 in the sky !

Then I sing the wild song 'twas once such  
 pleasure to hear,  
 When our voices, commingling, breathed,  
 like one, on the ear ;  
 And, as Echo far off through the vale  
 my sad orison rolls,  
 I think, O my love ! 'tis thy voice, from  
 the Kingdom of Souls,  
 Faintly answering still the notes that once  
 were so dear.



### ONE BUMPER AT PARTING.

One bumper at parting !—though many  
 Have circled the board since we met,  
 The fullest, the saddest of any  
 Remains to be crowned by us yet.  
 The sweetness that pleasure hath in it  
 Is always so slow to come forth,  
 That seldom, alas ! till the minute  
 It dies, do we know half its worth.  
 But come—may our life's happy measure  
 Be all of such moments made up ;  
 They're born on the bosom of Pleasure,  
 They die 'midst the tears of the cup.

As onward we journey, how pleasant  
 To pause and inhabit awhile  
 Those few sunny spots, like the present,  
 That 'mid the dull wilderness smile !  
 But Time, like a pitiless master,  
 Cries " Onward !" and spurs the gay  
 hours—  
 Ah, never doth Time travel faster,  
 Than when his way lies among flowers  
 But come—may our life's happy measure  
 Be all of such moments made up ;  
 They're born on the bosom of Pleasure,  
 They die 'midst the tears of the cup.



We saw how the sun looked in sinking,  
 The waters beneath him how bright,  
 And now let our farewell of drinking  
 Resemble that farewell of light.  
 You saw how he finished, by darting  
 His beam o'er a deep billow's brim—  
 So, fill up, let's shine at our parting,  
 In full, liquid glory, like him.  
 And oh! may our life's happy measure  
 Of moments like this be made up;  
 'Twas born on the bosom of Pleasure,  
 It dies 'mid the tears of the cup.

~~~~~  
**'TIS THE LAST ROSE OF
 SUMMER.**

'Tis the last rose of summer
 Left blooming alone;
 All her lovely companions
 Are faded and gone;
 No flower of her kindred,
 No rosebud is nigh,
 To reflect back her blushes,
 To give sigh for sigh.

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one,
 To pine on the stem;
 Since the lovely are sleeping,
 Go sleep thou with them.
 Thus kindly I scatter
 Thy leaves o'er the bed,
 Where thy mates of the garden
 Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may I follow,
 When friendships decay,
 And from Love's shining circle
 The gems drop away!
 When true hearts lie withered
 And fond ones are flown,
 Oh! who would inhabit
 This bleak world alone?

~~~~~  
**THE YOUNG MAY MOON.**

THE young May moon is beaming, love,  
 The glow-worm's lamp is gleaming, love,  
 How sweet to rove  
 Through Morna's grove,  
 When the drowsy world is dreaming,  
 Love!

Then awake!—the heavens look bright  
 my dear,  
 'Tis never too late for delight, my dear,  
 And the best of all ways  
 To lengthen our days  
 Is to steal a few hours from the night, my  
 dear.

Now all the world is sleeping, love,  
 But the Sage, his star-watch keeping,  
 love,  
 And I whose star,  
 More glorious far,  
 Is the eye from that casement peeping,  
 love.  
 Then awake!—till rise of sun, my dear,  
 The Sage's glass we'll shun, my dear,  
 Or, in watching the flight  
 Of bodies of light,  
 He might happen to take thee for one,  
 my dear.

~~~~~  
THE MINSTREL-BOY.

THE Minstrel-boy to the war is gone,
 In the ranks of death you'll find him;
 His father's sword he has girded on,
 And his wild harp slung behind him.—
 "Land of song!" said the warrior-bard,
 "Though all the world betrays thee,
 One sword, at least, thy rights shall
 guard,
 One faithful harp shall praise thee!"

The Minstrel fell!—but the foem n's chain
 Could not bring his proud so under;
 The harp he loved ne'er spoke again,
 For he tore its cords asunder;
 And said, "No chains shall sully thee,
 Thou soul of love and bravery!
 Thy songs were made for the brave and
 free,
 They shall never sound in slavery!"

~~~~~  
**FAREWELL!—BUT WHENEVER  
 YOU WELCOME THE HOUR.**

FAREWELL!—but whenever you welcome  
 the hour  
 That awakens the night-song of mirth in  
 your bower

Then think of the friend who once welcomed it too,  
 And forgot his own griefs to be happy with you. [remain  
 His griefs may return, not a hope may  
 Of the few that have brightened his path-  
 way of pain,  
 But he ne'er will forget the short vision  
 that threw  
 Its enchantment around him, while linger-  
 ing with you.

And still on that evening, when pleasure  
 fills up  
 To the highest top sparkle each heart and  
 each cup,  
 Where'er my path lies, be it gloomy or  
 bright,  
 My soul, happy friends, shall be with you  
 that night ;  
 Shall join in your revels, your sports,  
 and your wiles,  
 And return to me beaming all o'er with  
 your smiles—  
 Too blest, if it tells me that, 'mid the gay  
 cheer,  
 Some kind voice had murmured, "I wish  
 he were here !"

Let Fate do her worst ; there are relics of  
 joy,  
 Bright dreams of the past, which she can-  
 not destroy ;  
 Which come in the night-time of sorrow  
 and care, [to wear.  
 And bring back the features that joy used  
 Long, long be my heart with such  
 memories 'filled !  
 Like the vase, in which roses have once  
 been distilled—  
 You may break, you may shatter the vase  
 if you will,  
 But the scent of the roses will hang round  
 it still.

#### OH ! DOUBT ME NOT.

OH ! doubt me not—the season  
 Is o'er, when Folly made me rove,  
 And now the vestal, Reason,  
 Shall watch the fire awaked by  
 Love.

Although this heart was early blown,  
 And fairest hands disturbed the tree,  
 They only shook some blossoms down,  
 Its fruit has all been kept for thee.  
 Then doubt me not—the season  
 Is o'er when Folly made me rove,  
 And now the vestal, Reason,  
 Shall watch the fire awaked by  
 Love.

And though my lute no longer  
 May sing of Passion's ardent spell,  
 Yet, trust me, all the stronger  
 I feel the bliss I do not tell.  
 The bee through many a garden roves,  
 And hums his lay of courtship o'er,  
 But, when he finds the flower he loves,  
 He settles there, and hums no more.  
 Then doubt me not—the season  
 Is o'er when Folly kept me free,  
 And now the vestal, Reason,  
 Shall guard the flame awaked by  
 thee.

#### YOU REMEMBER ELLEN.

You remember Ellen, our hamlet's pride,  
 How meekly she b'essed her humble  
 lot,  
 When the stranger, William, had made  
 her his bride,  
 And love was the light of their lowly  
 cot. [rains,  
 Together they toiled through winds and  
 Till William at length in sadness said,  
 "We must seek our fortune on other  
 plains ;"—  
 Then, sighing, she left her lowly shed.  
 They roamed a long and a weary way,  
 Nor much was the maiden's heart at  
 ease, [day,  
 When now, at the close of one stormy  
 They see a proud castle among the  
 trees.  
 "To-night," said the youth, "we'll  
 shelter there ;  
 The wind blows cold, and the hour is  
 late :"  
 So he blew the horn with a chieftain's  
 air,  
 And the porter bowed as they passed  
 the gate.

"Now, welcome, lady," exclaimed the youth,

"This castle is thine, and these dark woods all!"  
She believed him crazed, but his words were truth,

For Ellen is Lady of Rosna Hall!  
And dearly the Lord of Rosna loves  
What William the stranger wooed and wed;

And the light of bliss, in these lordly groves,  
Shines pure as it did in the lowly shed.

### COME O'ER THE SEA.

COME o'er the sea,  
Maiden, with me,  
Mine through sunshine, storm, and snows;  
Seasons may roll,  
But the true soul  
Burns the same, where'er it goes.  
Let fate frown on, so we love and part not;  
'Tis life where thou art, 'tis death where thou art not.

Then come o'er the sea,  
Maiden, with me,  
Come wherever the wild wind blows;  
Seasons may roll,  
But the true soul  
Burns the same, where'er it goes.

Was not the sea  
Made for the free,  
Land for courts and chains alone?  
Here we are slaves,  
But, on the waves,  
Love and liberty's all our own.  
No eye to watch, and no tongue to wound us,  
All earth forgot, and all heaven around us—

Then come o'er the sea,  
Maiden, with me,  
Mine through sunshine, storm, and snows;  
Seasons may roll,  
But the true soul  
Burns the same, where'er it goes.

### HAS SORROW THY YOUNG DAYS SHADED.

HAS sorrow thy young days shaded,  
As clouds o'er the morning fleet?  
Too fast have those young days faded,  
That, even in sorrow, were sweet?  
Does Time with his cold wing wither  
Each feeling that once was dear?—  
Then, child of misfortune, come hither,  
I'll weep with thee, tear for tear.

Has love to that soul, so tender,  
Been like our Lagenian mine,  
Where sparkles of golden splendour  
All over the surface shine?  
But, if in pursuit we go deeper,  
Allured by the gleam that shone,  
Ah! false as the dream of the sleeper,  
Like Love, the bright ore is gone.

Has Hope, like the bird in the story,  
That flitted from tree to tree  
With the talisman's glittering glory—  
Has Hope been that bird to thee?  
On branch after branch alighting,  
The gem did she still display,  
And, when nearest and most inviting,  
Then waft the fair gem away?

If thus the young hours have fled,  
When sorrow itself looked bright?  
If thus the fair hope hath cheated,  
That led thee along so light;  
If thus the cold world now wither  
Each feeling that once was dear :—  
Come, child of misfortune, come hither,  
I'll weep with thee, tear for tear.

### WHEN FIRST I MET THEE.

WHEN first I met thee, warm and young,  
There shone such truth about thee,  
And on thy lip such promise hung,  
I did not dare to doubt thee.  
I saw thee change, yet still relied,  
Still clung with hope the fonder,  
And thought, though false to all beside,  
From me thou couldst not wander.

But go, deceiver! go,—  
The heart, whose hopes could  
make it  
Trust one so false, so low,  
Deserves that thou shouldst  
break it.

When every tongue thy follies named,  
 I fled the unwelcome story ;  
 Or found, in even the faults they blamed,  
 Some gleams of future glory.  
 I still was true, when nearer friends  
 Conspired to wrong, to slight thee ;  
 The heart, that now thy falsehood rends,  
 Would then have bled to right thee.

But go, deceiver ! go,—  
 Some day, perhaps, thou'lt  
 waken

From pleasure's dream, to know  
 The grief of hearts forsaken.

Even now, though youth its bloom has  
 shed,

No lights of age adorn thee :

The few who loved thee once have fled,  
 And they who flatter scorn thee.

Thy midnight cup is pledged to slaves,  
 No genial ties enwreath it ;

The smiling there, like light on graves,  
 Has rank cold hearts beneath it.

Go — go — though worlds were  
 thine,

I would not now surrender

One taintless tear of mine

For all thy guilty splendour !

And days may come, thou false one ! yet,

When even those ties shall sever ;

When thou wilt call, with vain regret,

On her thou'st lost for ever ;

On her who, in thy fortune's fall,

With smiles hath still received thee,

And gladly died to prove thee all

Her fancy first believed thee.

Go—go—'tis vain to curse,

'Tis weakness to upbraid thee ;

Hate cannot wish thee worse

Than guilt and shame have  
 made thee

#### ~~~~~

### WHILE HISTORY'S MUSE.

WHILE History's Muse the memorial was  
 keeping

Of all that the dark hand of Destiny  
 weaves,

Beside her the Genius of Erin stood  
 weeping,

For hers was the story that blotted the  
 leaves.

But oh ! how the tear in her eyelids grew  
 bright,

When, after whole pages of sorrow and  
 shame,

She saw History write,

With a pencil of light

That illumed the whole volume, her Wel-  
 lington's name !

"Hail, Star of my Isle !" said the Spirit,  
 all sparkling

With beams such as break from her  
 own dewy skies—

"Through ages of sorrow, deserted and  
 darkling,

I've watched for some glory like thine  
 to arise.

For though Heroes I've numbered, un-  
 blest was their lot,

And unhallowed they sleep in the cross-  
 ways of Fame ;—

But oh ! there is not

One dishonouring blot

On the wreath that encircles my Welling-  
 ton's name !

"Yet still the last crown of thy toils is  
 remaining,

The grandest, the purest, even thou  
 hast yet known ;

Though proud was thy task, other nations  
 unchaining,

Far prouder to heal the deep wounds  
 of thy own.

At the foot of that throne for whose weal  
 thou hast stood,

Go, plead for the land that first cradled  
 thy fame—

And, bright o'er the flood

Of her tears and her blood,

Let the rainbow of Hope be her Welling-  
 ton's name !"

#### ~~~~~

### THE TIME I'VE LOST IN WOOLING.

THE time I've lost in wooling,

In watching and pursuing

The light that lies

In woman's eyes,

Has been my heart's undoing.

Though Wisdom oft has sought me,  
I scorned the lore she brought me,  
My only books  
Were woman's looks,  
And folly's all they've taught me.

Her smile when Beauty granted,  
I hung with gaze enchanted,  
Like him the Sprite  
Whom maids by night  
Oft meet in glen that's haunted.  
Like him, too, Beauty won me  
But while her eyes were on me ;  
If once their ray  
Was turned away,  
Oh ! winds could not outrun me.

And are those follies going ?  
And is my proud heart growing  
Too cold or wise  
For brilliant eyes  
Again to set it glowing ?  
No—vain, alas ! th' endeavour  
From bonds so sweet to sever ;—  
Poor Wisdom's chance  
Against a glance  
Is now as weak as ever.

### OH, WHERE'S THE SLAVE.

OH, where's the slave so lowly  
Condemned to chains unholy,  
Who, could he burst  
His bonds at first,  
Would pine beneath them slowly ?  
What soul, whose wrongs degrade it,  
Would wait till time decayed it,  
When thus its wing  
At once may spring  
To the throne of Him who made it ?  
Farewell, Erin,—farewell, all  
Who live to weep our fall.

Less dear the laurel growing  
Alive, untouched, and blowing,  
Than that whose braid  
Is plucked to shade  
The brows with victory growing.  
We tread the land that bore us,  
Her green flag glitters o'er us,

The friends we've tried  
Are by our side,  
And the foe we hate before us.  
Farewell, Erin,—farewell, all  
Who live to weep our fall.

### COME, REST IN THIS BOSOM.

COME, rest in this bosom, my own  
stricken deer,  
Though the herd have fled from thee, thy  
home is still here :  
Here still is the smile that no cloud can  
o'ercast,  
And a heart and a hand all thy own to  
the last.

Oh ! what was love made for, if 'tis not  
the same  
Through joy and through torment, through  
glory and shame ?  
I know not, I ask not, if guilt's in that  
heart,  
I but know that I love thee, whatever  
thou art.

Thou hast called me thy Angel in  
moments of bliss,  
And thy Angel I'll be, 'mid the horrors of  
this,  
Through the furnace, unshrinking, thy  
steps to pursue,  
And shield thee, and save thee, or perish  
there too.

### I SAW FROM THE BEACH.

I SAW from the beach, when the morning  
was shining,  
A bark o'er the waters move gloriously  
on ;  
I came when the sun o'er that beach was  
declining,  
The bark was still there, but the waters  
were gone.

And such is the fate of our life's early  
promise,  
So passing the spring-tide of joy we  
have known.

Each wave, that we danced on at morn-  
ing, ebbs from us,  
And leaves us, at eve, on the bleak  
shore alone.

Ne'er tell me of glories serenely adorning  
The close of our day, the calm eve of  
our night :—

Give me back, give me back the wild  
freshness of Morning,  
Her clouds and her tears are worth  
Evening's best light.

Oh, who would not welcome that mo-  
ment's returning,

When passion first waked a new life  
through his frame,

And his soul—like the wood that grows  
precious in burning—

Gave out all its sweets to love's exquisite  
flame !

#### FILL THE BUMPER FAIR

FILL the bumper fair !

Every drop we sprinkle

O'er the brow of Care,

Smooths away a wrinkle.

Wit's electric flame

Ne'er so swiftly passes,

As when through the frame

It shoots from brimming glasses

Fill the bumper fair !

Every drop we sprinkle

O'er the brow of Care,

Smooths away a wrinkle.

Sages can, they say,

Grasp the lightning's pinions,

And bring down its ray

From the starred dominions :—

So we, sages, sit

And 'mid bumpers brightening,

From the heaven of Wit

Draw down all its lightning.

Wouldst thou know what first

Made our souls inherit

This ennobling thirst

For wine's celestial spirit ?

It chanced upon that day,

When, as bards inform us,

Prometheus stole away

\* The living fires that warm us,

The careless Youth, when up

To Glory's fount aspiring,

Took nor urn nor cup

To hide the pilfered fire in.—

But oh, his joy ! when, round

The halls of heaven spying,

Among the stars he found

A bowl of Bacchus lying.

Some drops were in that bowl,

Remains of last night's pleasure,

With which the Sparks of Soul

Mixed their burning treasure.

Hence the goblet's shower

Hath such spells to win us ;

Hence its mighty power

O'er that flame within us.

Fill the bumper fair !

Every drop we sprinkle

O'er the brow of Care,

Smooths away a wrinkle.

#### LIFE WITHOUT FREEDOM.

FROM life without freedom, oh ! who  
would not fly ?

For one day of freedom, oh ! who would  
not die ?

Hark, hark ! 'tis the trumpet, the call o'  
the brave,

The death-song of tyrants, and dirge o'  
the slave.

Our country lies bleeding, oh ! fly to her  
aid,

One arm that defends, is worth hosts that  
invade.

In death's kindly bosom our last hope  
remains,

The dead fear no tyrants ; the grave has  
no chains.

On, on to the combat ! the heroes that  
bleed

For virtue and mankind, are heroes in-  
deed !

And oh ! e'en if Freedom from this world  
be driven,

Despair not—at least we shall find her in  
heaven !

## HERE'S THE BOWER.

HERE's the bower she loved so much,  
 And the tree she planted ;  
 Here's the harp she used to touch,—  
 Oh ! how that touch enchanted !  
 Roses now unheeded sigh,  
 Where's the hand to wreath them ?  
 Songs around neglected lie,  
 Where's the lip to breathe them ?  
 Here's the bower she loved so much  
 And the tree she planted ;  
 Here's the harp she used to touch,  
 Oh ! how that touch enchanted !

Spring may bloom, but she we loved  
 Ne'er shall feel its sweetness,  
 Time that once so fleetly moved,  
 Now hath lost its fleetness.  
 Years were days, when here she strayed,  
 Days were moments near her,  
 Heaven ne'er formed a brighter maid,  
 Nor pity wept a dearer !  
 Here's the bower she loved so much,  
 And the tree she planted ;  
 Here's the harp she used to touch,—  
 Oh ! how that touch enchanted !

~~~~~  
LOVE AND HOPE.

AT morn, beside yon summer sea,
 Young Hope and Love reclined :
 But scarce had noon-tide come, when he
 Into his bark leaped smilingly,
 And left poor Hope behind !

"I go," said Love, "to sail awhile,
 Across this sunny main ;"—
 And then so sweet his parting smile,
 That Hope, who never dreamed of guile,
 Believed he'd come again.

She lingered there, till evening's beam
 Along the waters lay ;
 And o'er the sands, in thoughtful dream,
 Oft traced his name, which still the stream
 As often washed away.

At length, a sail appears in sight,
 And toward the maiden moves ;
 'Tis Wealth that comes, and gay and bright,
 His golden bark reflects the light ;
 But, ah, it is not Love's !

Another sail—'twas Friendship showed
 Her night lamp o'er the sea ;
 And calm the light that lamp bestowed,
 But Love had lights that warmer glowed
 And where, alas ! was He ?

Now fast around the sea and shore
 Night threw her darkling chain ;
 The sunny sails were seen no more,
 Hope's morning dreams of bliss were
 'o'er—
 Love never came again !

~~~~~  
FAREWELL.

FAREWELL—farewell to thee, Araby's  
 daughter !  
 (Thus warbled a Peri beneath the dark  
 sea ;)  
 No pearl ever lay, under Oman's green  
 water,  
 More pure in its shell than thy spirit in  
 thee.

Oh ! fair as the sea-flower close to thee  
 growing,  
 How light was thy heart till love's  
 witchery came,  
 Like the wind of the south o'er a summer  
 lute blowing,  
 And hushed all its music and withered  
 its frame !

But long upon Araby's green sunny high-  
 lands,  
 Shall maids and their lovers remember  
 the doom  
 Of her who lies sleeping among the Pearl  
 Islands,  
 With nought but the sea-star to light  
 up her tomb.

And still, when the merry date season is  
 burning  
 And calls to the palm-groves the young  
 and the old,  
 The happiest there, from their pastime  
 returning,  
 At sunset, will weep when thy story is  
 told.

The young village maid, when with  
flowers she dresses

Her dark-flowing hair, for some festival  
day,  
Will think of thy fate, till neglecting her  
tresses,  
She mournfully turns from the mirror  
away.

Nor shall Iran, beloved of her hero ! for-  
get thee,—

Though tyrants watch over her tears as  
they start,  
Close, close by the side of that hero she'll  
set thee,  
Embalmed in the innermost shrine of  
her heart.

Farewell—be it ours to embellish thy  
pillow

With everything beauteous that grows  
in the deep ;  
Each flower of the rock, and each gem of  
the billow,  
Shall sweeten thy bed, and illumine  
thy sleep.

Around thee shall glisten the loveliest  
amber

That ever the sorrowing sea-bird has  
wept ;  
With many a shell, in whose hollow-  
wreathed chamber,  
We, Peris of ocean, by moonlight have  
slept.

We'll dive where the gardens of coral lie  
darkling,

And plant all the rosiest stems at thy  
head ;

We'll seek where the sands of the Caspian  
are sparkling,  
And gather their gold to strew over thy  
bed.

Farewell—farewell—until Pity's sweet  
fountain

Is lost in the hearts of the fair and the  
brave,

They'll weep for the chieftain who died  
on that mountain,

They'll weep for the maiden who sleeps  
in this wave.

## THOU ART, O GOD !

### I.

THOU art, O God ! the life and light  
Of all this wondrous world we see ;  
Its glow by day, its smile by night,  
Are but reflections caught from Thee.  
Where'er we turn Thy glories shine.  
And all things fair and bright are Thine.

### II.

When day, with farewell beam, delays  
Among the opening clouds of even,  
And we can almost think we gaze  
Through golden vistas into Heaven ;  
Those hues, that make the sun's decline  
So soft, so radiant, Lord ! are Thine.

### III.

When night, with wings of starry gloom,  
O'ershadows all the earth and skies,  
Like some dark, beauteous bird, whose  
plume  
Is sparkling with unnumbered eyes ;—  
That sacred gloom, those fires divine,  
So grand, so countless, Lord ! are Thine.

### IV.

When youthful spring around us breathes,  
Thy spirit warms her fragrant sigh ;  
And every flower the summer wreathes  
Is born beneath that kindling eye.  
Where'er we turn Thy glories shine,  
And all things fair and bright are Thine.

## THIS WORLD IS ALL A FLEET- ING SHOW.

### I.

THIS world is all a fleeting show  
For man's illusion given ;  
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,  
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow,—  
There's nothing true but Heaven !

### II.

And false the light on glory's plume,  
As fading hues of even ;  
And Love, and Hope, and Beauty's  
bloom,  
Are blossoms gathered for the tomb,—  
There's nothing bright but Heaven !



## III.

Poor wanderers of a stormy day,  
From wave to wave we're driven,  
And fancy's flash and reason's ray  
Serve but to light the troubled way,—  
There's nothing calm but Heaven!

## FALL'N IS THY THRONE.

## I.

FALL'N is thy throne, O Israel!  
Silence is o'er thy plains;  
Thy dwellings all lie desolate,  
Thy children weep in chains.  
Where are the dews that fed thee  
On Etham's barren shore?  
That fire from Heaven which led thee,  
Now lights thy path no more.

## II.

Lord! Thou didst love Jerusalem;—  
Once, she was all Thy own;  
Her love Thy fairest heritage,  
Her power Thy glory's throne,  
Till evil came, and blighted  
Thy long-loved olive-tree;—  
And Salem's shrines were lighted  
For other gods than Thee!

## III.

Then sunk the star of Solyma;—  
Then passed her glory's day,  
Like heath that, in the wilderness,  
The wild wind whirls away.  
Silent and waste her bowers,  
Where once the mighty trod,  
And sunk those guilty towers,  
Where Baal reigned as God!

## IV.

"Go,"—said the Lord—"ye conquerors!  
Steep in her blood your swords,  
And raze to earth her battlements,  
For they are not the Lord's!  
Till Zion's mournful daughter  
O'er kindred bones shall tread,  
And Hinnom's vale of slaughter  
Shall hide but half her dead!"

O THOU WHO DRY'ST THE  
MOURNER'S TEAR!

## I.

O THOU who dry'st the mourner's tear!  
How dark this world would be,  
If, when deceived and wounded here,  
We could not fly to Thee.  
The friends, who in our sunshine live,  
When winter comes are flown:  
And he, who has but tears to give,  
Must weep those tears alone.  
But Thou wilt heal that broken heart,  
Which, like the plants that throw  
Their fragrance from the wounded part,  
Breathes sweetness out of woe.

## II.

When joy no longer soothes or cheers,  
And e'en the hope that threw  
A moment's sparkle o'er our tears,  
Is dimmed and vanished too!  
Oh! who would bear life's stormy doom,  
Did not Thy wing of love  
Come, brightly wafting through the gloom  
Our peace-branch from above?  
Then sorrow, touched by Thee, grows  
bright  
With more than rapture's ray;  
As darkness shows us worlds of light  
We never saw by day!

## SOUND THE LOUD TIMBREL.

## I.

SOUND the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark  
sea!  
Jehovah has triumphed—his people are  
free.  
Sing—for the pride of the tyrant is broken,  
His chariots, and horsemen, all splendid  
and brave,  
How vain was their boasting!—the Lord  
hath but spoken,  
And chariots and horsemen are sunk in  
the wave.  
Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark  
sea!  
Jehovah has triumphed—his p  
free.

## II.

Praise to the Conqueror, praise to the Lord,  
His word was our arrow, his breath was  
our sword!—

Who shall return to tell Egypt the story  
Of those she sent forth in the hour of  
her pride?

For the Lord hath looked out from his  
pillar of glory,

And all her brave thousands are dashed  
in the tide. [sea!

Sound the loud timbrel o'er Egypt's dark  
Jehovah has triumphed—his people are  
free.

[SIR WALTER SCOTT. 1771—1832.]

## THE LAST MINSTREL.

*Lay of the Last Minstrel.*

THE way was long, the wind was cold,  
The Minstrel was infirm and old;  
His withered cheek, and tresses grey,  
Seemed to have known a better day;  
The harp, his sole remaining joy,  
Was carried by an orphan boy:  
The last of all the Bards was he,  
Who sung of Border chivalry;  
For, well-a-day! their date was fled,  
His tuneful brethren all were dead;  
And he, neglected and oppressed,  
Wished to be with them, and at rest.  
No more, on prancing palfrey borne,  
He carolled, light as lark at morn;  
No longer, courted and caressed,  
High placed in hall, a welcome guest,  
He poured, to lord and lady gay,  
The unpremeditated lay: [gone;  
Old times were changed, old manners  
A stranger filled the Stuarts' throne,  
The bigots of the iron time  
Had called his harmless art a crime.  
A wandering harper, scorned and poor,  
He begged his bread from door to door;  
And tuned, to please a peasant's ear,  
The harp a King had loved to hear.

## THE LOVE OF COUNTRY.

BREATHES there the man with soul so  
dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,

This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him  
burned

As home his footsteps he hath turned,  
From wandering on a foreign strand?  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;  
For him no minstrel raptures swell!  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim:  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentrated all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonoured, and unsung.

## SCOTLAND.

O CALEDONIA stern and wild,  
Meet nurse for a poetic child!  
Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,  
Land of the mountain and the flood,  
Land of my sires, what mortal hand  
Can e'er untie the filial band  
That knits me to thy rugged strand?  
Still, as I view each well-known scene,  
Think what is now, and what hath been,  
Seems as, to me, of all bereft,  
Sole friends thy woods and streams were  
left;  
And thus I love them better still,  
Even in extremity of ill.  
By Yarrow's stream still let me stray,  
Though none should guide my feeble  
way;  
Still feel the breeze down Ettrick break,  
Although it chill my withered cheek;  
Still lay my head by Teviot stone,  
Though there, forgotten and alone,  
The bard may draw his parting groan.

## MELROSE ABBEY.

If thou wouldst view fair Melrose aright  
Go visit it by the pale moonlight;  
For the gay beams of lightsome day  
Gild, but to flout, the ruins gray.  
When the broken arches are black in night,  
And each shafted oriel glimmers white:  
When the cold light's uncertain shower  
Streams on the ruined central tower;

When buttress and buttress, alternately,  
Seem framed of ebony and ivory ;  
When silver edges the imagery,  
And the scrolls that teach thee to live and die ;  
When distant Tweed is heard to rave,  
And the owl to hoot o'er the dead man's grave,

Then go—but go alone the while—  
Then view St. David's ruined pile ;  
And home returning, soothly swear,  
Was never scene so sad and fair !

### THE MEMORY OF THE BARD.

CALL it not vain :—they do not err,  
Who say, that when the Poet dies,  
Mute Nature mourns her worshipper,

And celebrates his obsequies :  
Who say, tall cliff, and cavern lone,  
For the departed bard make moan ;  
That mountains weep in crystal rill ;  
That flowers in tears of balm distil ;  
Through his loved groves that breezes sigh,

And oaks, in deeper groan, reply ;  
And rivers teach their rushing wave  
To murmur dirges round his grave.

Not that, in sooth, o'er mortal urn  
Those things inanimate can mourn ;  
But that the stream, the wood, the gale,  
Is vocal with the plaintive wail  
Of those, who, else forgotten long,  
Lived in the poet's faithful song,  
And, with the poet's parting breath,  
Whose memory feels a second death.  
The maid's pale shade, who wails her lot,  
That love, true love, should be forgot,  
From rose and hawthorn shakes the tear  
Upon the gentle minstrel's bier :  
The phantom knight, his glory fled,  
Mourns o'er the field he heaped with dead ;

Mounts the wild blast that sweeps amain,  
And shrieks along the battle-plain.  
The chief, whose antique crownlet long  
Still sparkled in the feudal song,  
Now, from the mountain's misty throne,  
Sees, in the thanedom once his own,  
His ashes undistinguished lie,  
His place, his power, his memory die :

His groans the lonely caverns fill,  
His tears of rage impell the rill ;  
All mourn the minstrel's harp unstrung,  
Their name unknown, their praise unsung.

### HYMN FOR THE DEAD.

THAT day of wrath, that dreadful day,  
When heaven and earth shall pass away,  
What power shall be the sinner's stay !  
How shall he meet that dreadful day,  
When, shrivelling like a parched scroll,  
The flaming heavens together roll ;  
When louder yet, and yet more dread,  
Swells the high trump that wakes the dead !

O ! on that day, that wrathful day,  
When man to judgment wakes from clay,  
Be THOU the trembling sinner's stay,  
Though heaven and earth shall pass away !

### LOVE AS THE THEME OF POETS.

#### I.

AND said I that my limbs were old ;  
And said I that my blood was cold,  
And that my kindly fire was fled,  
And my poor withered heart was dead,  
And that I might not sing of love ?—  
How could I to the dearest theme,  
That ever warmed a minstrel's dream,  
So foul, so false, a recreant prove !  
How could I name love's very name,  
Nor wake my harp to notes of flame !

#### II.

In peace, Love tunes the shepherd's reed ;  
In war, he mounts the warrior's steed ;  
In halls, in gay attire is seen ;  
In hamlets, dances on the green.  
Love rules the court, the camp, the grove,  
And men below, and saints above ;  
For love is heaven, and heaven is love.

### THE BORDER TROOPER; SIR WILLIAM OF DELORAINE.

A STARK moss-trooping Scot was he,  
As e'er crouched border lance by knee :  
Through Solway sands, through Tara's  
moss,

Blindfold he knew the paths to cross ;  
By wily turns, by desperate bounds,  
Had baffled Percy's best blood-hounds :  
In Eske, or Liddel, fords were none,  
But he would ride them, one by one ;  
Alike to him was time, or tide,  
December's snow, or July's pride ;  
Alike to him was tide, or time,  
Moonless midnight, or matin prime ;  
Steady of heart and stout of hand,  
As e'er drove prey from Cumberland ;  
Five times outlawed had he been,  
By England's king and Scotland's queen.

### PITT AND FOX.

#### *Introduction to Marmion.*

To mute and to material things  
New life revolving summer brings ;  
The genial call dead nature hears,  
And her glory reappears.  
But oh ! my country's wintry state  
What second spring shall renovate ?  
What powerful call shall bid arise  
To buried warlike, and the wise  
The mind, that thought for Britain's  
weal,  
She hand that grasped the victor steel ?  
The vernal sun new life bestows  
Even on the meanest flower that blows !  
But vainly, vainly, may he shine,  
Where glory weeps o'er Nelson's shrine :  
And vainly pierce the solemn gloom,  
That shrouds, O Pitt, thy hallowed  
tomb !

\* \* \* \* \*

Hadst thou but lived, though stripped  
of dower,

A watchman on the lonely tower,  
Thy thrilling trump had roused the  
land,

When fraud or danger were at hand ;  
By thee, as by the beacon-light,  
Our pilots had kept course aright ;

As some proud column, though alone,  
Thy strength had propped the tottering  
throne.

Now is the stately column broke,  
The beacon-light is quenched in smoke,  
The trumpet's silver sound is still,  
The warder silent on the hill !

Oh, think, how to his latest day,  
When Death, just hovering, claimed his  
prey,

With Palinure's unaltered mood,  
Firm at his dangerous post he stood ;  
Each call for needful rest repelled,  
With dying hand the rudder held,  
Till, in his fall, with fateful sway,  
The steerage of the realm gave way !  
Then, while on Britain's thousand plains,  
One unpolluted church remains,  
Whose peaceful bells ne'er sent around  
The bloody tocsin's maddening sound,  
But still, upon the hallowed day,  
Convoke the swains to praise and pray  
While faith and civil peace are dear,  
Grace this cold marble with a tear,—  
He, who preserved them, Pitt, lies here.

Nor yet suppress the generous sigh,  
Because his rival slumbers nigh ;  
Nor be thy *requiescat* dumb,  
Lest it be said o'er Fox's tomb.  
For talents mourn, untimely lost,  
When best employed, and wanted most,  
Mourn genius high, and lore profound,  
And wit that loved to play, not wound ;  
And all the reasoning powers divine,  
To penetrate, resolve, combine ;  
And feelings keen, and fancy's glow,—  
They sleep with him who sleeps below ;  
And, if thou mourn'st they could not  
save

From error him who owns this grave,  
Be every harsher thought suppressed,  
And sacred be the last long rest !  
*Here*, where the end of earthly things  
Lays heroes, patriots, bards, and kings ;  
Where stiff the hand, and still the  
tongue, [sung  
Of those who fought, and spoke, and  
*Here*, where the fretted aisles prolong  
The distant notes of holy song,  
As if some angel spoke agen,  
All peace on earth, good-will to men ;

If ever from an English heart,  
 O *here* let prejudice depart,  
 And partial feeling cast aside,  
 Record that Fox a Briton died !  
 When Europe crouched to France's yoke,  
 And Austria bent, and Prussia broke,  
 And the firm Russian's purpose brave  
 Was bartered by a timorous slave,  
 Even then dishonour's peace he spurned,  
 The sullied olive-branch returned,  
 Stood for his country's glory fast,  
 And nailed her colours to the mast.  
 Heaven, to reward his firmness, gave  
 A portion in this honoured grave ;  
 And ne'er held marble in its trust  
 Of two such wondrous men the dust.

With more than mortal powers endowed,  
 How high they soared above the crowd !  
 Theirs was no common party race,  
 Jostling by dark intrigue for place ;  
 Like fabled gods, their mighty war  
 Shook realms and nations in its jar ;  
 Beneath each banner proud to stand,  
 Looked up the noblest of the land,  
 Till through the British world  
 known  
 The names of Pitt and Fox alone.  
 Spells of such force no wizard grave  
 E'er framed in dark Thessalian cave,  
 Though his could drain the ocean dry,  
 And force the planets from the sky.  
 These spells are spent, and, spent with  
 these,  
 The wine of life is on the lees.  
 Genius, and taste, and talent gone,  
 For ever tombed beneath the stone,  
 Where, — taming thought to human  
 pride ! —  
 The mighty chiefs sleep side by side.  
 Drop upon Fox's grave the tear,  
 'Twill trickle to his rival's bier ;  
 O'er Pitt's the mournful requiem sound,  
 And Fox's shall the notes rebound.  
 The solemn echo seems to cry, —  
 " Here let their discord with them  
 die ;  
 Speak not for those a separate doom,  
 Whom Fate made brothers in the  
 tomb,  
 But search the land of living men,  
 Where wilt thou find their like agen ? "

## NIGHT AT NORHAM CASTLE.

*Marmion.*

DAY set on Norham's castled steep,  
 And Tweed's fair river, broad and deep,  
 And Cheviot's mountains lone ;  
 The battled towers, the donjon keep,  
 The loop-hole grates where captive  
 weep,  
 The flanking walls that round it sweep,  
 In yellow lustre shone.  
 The warriors on the turrets high,  
 Moving athwart the evening sky,  
 Seemed forms of giant height :  
 Their armour, as it caught the rays,  
 Flashed back again the western blaze,  
 In lines of dazzling light.

St. George's banner, broad and gay,  
 Now faded, as the fading ray  
 Less bright, and less, was flung ;  
 The evening gale had scarce the power  
 To wave it on the Donjon tower,  
 So heavily it hung.  
 The scouts had parted on their search,  
 The casle gates were barred ;  
 Above the gloomy portal arch,  
 Timing his footsteps to a march,  
 The warder kept his guard,  
 Low humming, as he paced along,  
 Some ancient Border gathering song.

## ROMANTIC LEGENDS.

THE mightiest chiefs of British song  
 Scorned not such legends to prolong :  
 They gleam through Spenser's elfin dream,  
 And mix in Milton's heavenly theme ;  
 And Dryden, in immortal strain,  
 Had raised the Table Round again,  
 But that a ribald king and court  
 Bade him toil on, to make them sport ;  
 Demanded for their uggard pay,  
 But for their souls, a looser lay,  
 Licentious satire, song, and play ;  
 The world defrauded of the high design,  
 Profaned the God-given strength, and  
 marred the lofty line.

Warmed by such names, well may we  
 then,  
 Though dwindled sons of little men

s say to break a feeble lance  
 n the fair fields of old romance;  
 Or seek the moated castle's cell,  
 Where long through talisman and spell,  
 While tyrants ruled, and damsels wept,  
 Thy Genius, Chivalry, hath slept:  
 There sound the harpings of the North,  
 Till he awake and sally forth,  
 On venturous quest to prick again,  
 In all his arms, with all his train,  
 Shield, lance, and brand, and plume, and  
 scarf,

Fay, giant, dragon, squire, and dwarf,  
 And wizard with his wand of might,  
 And errant maid on palfrey white.  
 Around the Genius weave their spells,  
 Pure Love, who scarce his passion tells;  
 Mystery, half veiled and half revealed;  
 And Honour with his spotless shield;  
 Attention, with fixed eye; and Fear,  
 That loves the tale she shrinks to hear;  
 And gentle Courtesy; and Faith,  
 Unchanged by sufferings, time, or death;  
 And Valour, lion-mettled lord,  
 Leaning upon his own good sword

### LOST IN THE SNOW.

WHEN red hath set the beamless sun,  
 Through heavy vapours dank and dun;  
 When the tired ploughman, dry and  
 warm,  
 Hears, half asleep, the rising storm  
 Hurling the hail, and sleeted rain,  
 Against the casement's tinkling pane;  
 The sounds that drive wild deer, and fox,  
 To shelter in the brake and rocks,  
 Are warnings which the shepherd ask  
 To dismal and to dangerous task.  
 Oft he looks forth, and hopes, in vain,  
 The blast may sink in mellowing rain;  
 Till, dark above, and white below,  
 Decided drives the flaky snow,  
 And forth the hardy swain must go.  
 Long, with dejected look and whine,  
 To leave the hearth his dogs repine;  
 Whistling, and cheering them to aid,  
 Around his back he wreathes the plaid:  
 His flock he gathers, and he guides  
 To open downs, and mountain sides,  
 Where, fiercest though the tempest blow,  
 Least deeply lies the drift below.

The blast, that whistles o'er the fell,  
 Stiffens his locks to icicles;  
 Oft he looks back, while, streaming far  
 His cottage window seems a star,—  
 Loses its feeble gleam,—and then  
 Turns patient to the blast again,  
 And, facing to the tempest's sweep,  
 Drives through the gloom his lagging  
 sheep:

If fails his heart, if his limbs fail,  
 Benumbing death is in the gale;  
 His paths, his landmarks—all unknown,  
 Close to the hut, no more his own,  
 Close to the aid he sought in vain,  
 The morn may find the stiffened swain:  
 His widow sees, at dawning pale,  
 His orphans raise their feeble wail;  
 And close beside him, in the snow,  
 Poor Yarrow, partner of their woe,  
 Couches upon his master's breast,  
 And licks his cheek, to break his rest.

### THE VIEW FROM BLACKFORD HILL.

STILL on the spot Lord Marmion stayed,  
 For fairer scene he ne'er surveyed.

When sated with the martial show  
 That peopled all the plain below,  
 The wandering eye could o'er it go,  
 And mark the distant city glow  
 With gloomy splendour red;

For on the smoke-wreaths, huge and  
 slow,

That round her sable turrets flow,  
 The morning beams were shed,  
 And tinged them with a lustre proud,  
 Like that which streaks a thunder  
 cloud.

Such dusky grandeur clothed the height,  
 Where the huge castle holds its state,  
 And all the steep slope down,  
 Whose ridgy back heaves to the sky,  
 Piled deep and massy, close and high,  
 Mine own romantic town!

But northward far, with purer blaze,  
 On Ochil mountains fell the rays,  
 And as each heathy top they kissed,  
 It gleamed a purple amethyst,  
 Yonder the shores of Fife you saw;  
 Here Preston-Bay, and Berwick-Law;

And, broad between them rolled,  
 The gallant Firth the eye might note,  
 Whose islands on its bosom float,  
 Like emeralds chased in gold.  
 Fitz-Eustace' heart felt closely pent;  
 As if to give his rapture vent,  
 The spur he to his charger lent,  
 And raised his bridle-hand,  
 And, making demi-volte in air,  
 Cried, "Where's the coward that would  
 not dare  
 To fight for such a land!"

~~~~~  
 LOCHINVAR.

LADY HERON'S SONG.

O, YOUNG Lochinvar is come out of the west,
 Through all the wide Border his steed
 was the best,
 And save his good broad-sword he
 weapons had none;
 He rode all unarmed, and he rode all
 alone.
 So faithful in love, and so dauntless in
 war,
 There never was knight like the young
 Lochinvar.

He stayed not for brake, and he stopped
 not for stone,
 He swam the Eske river where ford there
 was none;
 But, ere he alighted at Netherby gate,
 The bride had consented, the gallant
 came late:
 For a laggard in love, and a dastard in
 war,
 Was to wed the fair Ellen of brave
 Lochinvar.

So boldly he entered the Netherby hall,
 Among bride's-men and kinsmen, and
 brothers and all:
 Then spoke the bride's father, his hand
 on his sword
 (For the poor craven bridegroom said
 never a word),
 "O come ye in peace here, or come ye in
 war,
 Or to dance at our bridal, young Lord
 Lochinvar!"

"I long wooed your daughter, my suit
 you denied;—
 Love swells like the Solway, but ebbs
 like its tide—
 And now I am come, with this lost love
 of mine,
 To lead but one measure, drink one cup
 of wine.
 There are maidens in Scotland more
 lovely by far,
 That would gladly be bride to the young
 Lochinvar."

The bride kissed the goblet; the knight
 took it up,
 He quaffed off the wine, and he threw
 down the cup,
 She looked down to blush, and she
 looked up to sigh,
 With a smile on her lips and a tear in her
 eye.
 He took her soft hand, ere her mother
 could bar,—
 "Now tread we a measure!" said
 young Lochinvar.

So stately his form, and so lovely her
 face,
 That never a hall such a galliard did
 grace;
 While her mother did fret, and her father
 did fume,
 And the bridegroom stood dangling his
 bonnet and plume;
 And the bride-maidens whispered, "'Twere
 better by far
 To have matched our fair cousin with
 young Lochinvar."

One touch to her hand, and one word in
 her ear,
 When they reached the hall-door, and the
 charger stood near;
 So light to the croupe the fair lady he
 swung,
 So light to the saddle before her he
 sprang!
 "She is won! we are gone, over bank,
 bush, and scaur;
 They'll have fleet steeds that follow,"
 quoth young Lochinvar.

There was mounting 'mong Græmes of
the Netherby clan ;
Forsters, Fenwicks, and Musgraves, they
rode and they ran :
There was racing, and chasing, on Can-
nobie Lee, [they see,
But the lost bride of Netherby ne'er did
So daring in love, and so dauntless in war,
Have ye e'er heard of gallant like young
Lochinvar ?

CHRISTMAS TIME.

HEAP on more wood !—the wind is cold ;
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still.
Each age has deemed the new-born year
The fittest time for festal cheer :
Even heathen yet, the savage Dane
At Iol more deep the mead did drain ;
High on the beach his galleys drew,
And feasted all his pirate crew ;
Then in his low and pine-built hall,
Where shields and axes decked the wall,
They gorged upon the half-dressed steer ;
Can use in seas of sable beer ;
While round, in brutal jest, were thrown
The half-gnawed rib, and marrow-bone ;
Or listened all, in grim delight,
While scalds yelled out the joys of fight.
Then forth, in frenzy, would they hie,
While wildly loose their red locks fly ;
And dancing round the blazing pile,
They make such barbarous mirth the
while,
As best might to the mind recall
The boisterous joys of Odin's hall.

And well our Christian sires of old
Loved when the year its course had rolled,
And brought blithe Christmas back again,
With all his hospitable train.
Domestic and religious rite
Gave honour to the holy night :
On Christmas eve the bells were rung ;
On Christmas eve the mass was sung ;
That only night, in all the year,
Saw the stoled priest the chalice rear.
The damsel donned her kirtle shewn ;
The hall was dressed with holly green ;
Forth to the wood did merry-men go,
To gather in the mistletoe.

Then opened wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all ;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And Ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir, with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose ;
The lord, underogating, share
The vulgar game of "post and pair."
All hailed, with uncontrolled delight,
And general voice, the happy night,
That to the cottage, as the crown,
Brought tidings of salvation down.

The fire, with well-dried logs supplied
Went roaring up the chimney wide ;
The huge hall-table's oaken face,
Scrubbed till it shone the day to grace,
Bore then upon its massive board
No mark to part the squire and lord.
Then was brought in the lusty brawn,
By old blue-coated serving-man ;
Then the grim boar's head frowned on
high,
Crested with bays and rosemary.
Well can the green-garbed ranger tell,
How, when, and where, the monster fell :
What dogs before his death he tore,
And all the baiting of the boar.
The wassel round in good brown bowls,
Garnished with ribbons, blithely trowls.
There the huge sirloin reeked ; hard by
Plum-porridge stood, and Christmas
pie ;
Nor failed old Scotland to produce,
At such high-tide, her savoury goose.
Then came the merry maskers in,
And carols roared with blithesome din ;
If unmelodious was the song,
It was a hearty note, and strong.
Who lists may in their mumming see
Traces of ancient mystery ;
White shirts supplied the masquerade,
And smutted cheeks the visors made ;
But, O ! what maskers richly dight
Can boast of bosoms half so light !
England was merry England, when
Old Christmas brought his sports again.
'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest
ale ;
'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale ;
A Christmas gambol oft could cheer
The poor man's heart through half the
year.

RECOLLECTIONS OF HIS INFANCY.

It was a barren scene, and wild,
Where naked cliffs were rudely piled ;
But ever and anon between
Lay velvet tufts of loveliest green ;
And well the lonely infant knew
Recesses where the wall-flower grew,
And honey-suckle loved to crawl
Up the low crag and ruined wall.
I deemed such nooks the sweetest shade
The sun in all his round surveyed ;
And still I thought that shattered tower
The mightiest work of human power ;
And marvelled, as the aged hind
With some strange tale bewitched my
mind,
Of forayers, who, with headlong force,
Down from that strength had spurred
their horse,
Their southern rapine to renew,
Far in the distant Cheviots blue,
And, home returning, filled the hall
With revel, wassel-rout, and brawl --
Methought that still with tramp and
clang
The gate-way's broken arches rang ;
Methought grim features, seamed with
scars,
Glared through the windows' rusty bars.
And ever, by the winter hearth,
Old tales I heard of woe or mirth,
Of lovers' sleights, of ladies' charms,
Of witches' spells, of warriors' arms ;
Of patriot battles, won of old
By Wallace wight and Bruce the bold ,
Of later fields of feud and fight,
When, pouring from their Highland
height,
The Scottish clans, in headlong sway,
Had swept the scarlet ranks away.
While stretched at length upon the
floor,
Again I fought each combat o'er,
Pebbles and shells, in order laid,
The mimic ranks of war displayed ,
And onward still the Scottish Lion bore,
And still the scattered Southron fled
before.

Still, with vain fondness, could I trace,
Anew, each kind familiar face,

That brightened at our evening fire ;
From the thatched mansion's grey-haired
Sire,
Wise without learning, plain and good,
And sprung of Scotland's gentler blood ;
Whose eye in age, quick, clear, and
keen,
Showed what in youth its glance had
been ;
Whose doom discording neighbours
sought,
Content with equity unbought ;
To him the venerable Priest,
Our frequent and familiar guest,
Whose life and manners well could paint
Alike the student and the saint ;
Alas ! whose speech too oft I broke
With gambol rude and timeless joke :
For I was wayward, bold, and wild,
A self-willed imp, a grandame's child ;
But half a plague, and half a jest,
Was still endured, beloved, caressed.

WHERE SHALL THE LOVER REST ?

Where shall the lover rest,
Whom the fates sever
From his true maiden's breast,
Parted for ever ?
Where, through groves deep and high,
Sounds the far billow,
Where early violets die,
Under the willow.

There, through the summer day,
Cool streams are laving ;
There, while the tempests sway,
Scarce are boughs waving ;
There, thy rest shalt thou take,
Parted for ever,
Never again to wake,
Never, O never.

Where shall the traitor rest,
He, the deceiver,
Who could win maiden's breast,
Ruin, and leave her ?
In the lost battle,
Borne down by the flying,
Where mingles war's rattle,
With groans of the dying.

Her wings shall the eagle flap
O'er the false-hearted ;
His warm blood the wolf shall lap,
Ere life be parted.
Shame and dishonour sit
By his grave ever ;
Blessing shall hallow it,—
Never, O never.

GOOD WISHES.

A GARLAND for the hero's crest,
And twined by her he loves the best ;
To every lovely lady bright,
What can I wish but faithful knight ?
To every faithful lover too,
What can I wish but lady true ?
And knowledge to the studious sage ;
And pillow soft to head of age.
To thee, dear school-boy, whom my lay
Has cheated of thy hour of play,
Light task, and merry holiday !
To all, to each, a fair good night,
And pleasing dreams, and slumbers light !

WOMAN.

O WOMAN ! in our hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,
And variable as the shade
By the light of quivering aspen made ;
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou !

THE DEATH OF MARMION.

WITH fruitless labour, Clara bound,
And strove to staunch the gushing wound :
The Monk, with unavailing cares,
Exhausted all the Church's prayers ;
Ever, he said, that, close and near,
A lady's voice was in his ear,
And that the priest he could not hear,
For that she ever sung,
"In the lost battle, borne down by the
flying,
Where mingler war's rattle with groans
of the dying !"
So the notes rung

"Avoid thee, Fiend !—with cruel hand
Shake not the dying sinner's sand !—
Oh look, my son, upon yon sign
Of the Redeemer's grace divine ;
Oh think on faith and bliss !—
By many a death-bed I have been,
And many a sinner's parting seen,
But never aught like this."—
The war, that for a space did fail,
Now trebly thundering swelled the gale,
And—STANLEY ! was the cry ;—
A light on Marmion's visage spread,
And fired his glazing eye :
With dying hand, above his head
He shook the fragment of his blade,
And shouted "Victory !
Charge, Chester, charge ! On, Stanley,
on !"
Were the last words of Marmion.

THE GRAVE OF MARMION.

THEY dug his grave e'en where he lay,
But every mark is gone ;
Time's wasting hand has done away
The simple Cross of Sybil Gray,
And broke her font of stone :
But yet from out the little hill
Oozes the slender springlet still,
Oft halts the stranger there,
For thence may best his curious eye
The memorable field descry ;
And shepherd boys repair
To seek the water-flag and rush,
And rest them by the hazel bush,
And plait their garlands fair ;
Nor dream they sit upon the grave,
That holds the bones of Marmion brave.

PATERNAL AFFECTION.

The Lady of the Lake

SOME feelings are to mortals given,
With less of earth in them than heaven :
And if there be a human tear
From passion's dross refined and clear,
A tear so limpid and so meek,
It would not stain an angel's cheek,
'Tis that which pious fathers shed
Upon a dutious daughter's head !

CORONACH.

HE is gone on the mountain,
 He is lost to the forest,
 Like a summer-dried fountain,
 When our need was the sorest.
 The font, reappearing,
 From the rain-drops shall borrow,
 But to us comes no cheering,
 To Duncan no morrow !

The hand of the reaper
 Takes the ears that are hoary,
 But the voice of the weeper
 Wails manhood in glory.
 The autumn winds rushing,
 Waft the leaves that are searest,
 But our flower was in flushing,
 When blighting was nearest.

Fleet foot on the correi,
 Sage counsel in cumber,
 Red hand in the foray,
 How sound is thy slumber !
 Like the dew on the mountain,
 Like the foam on the river,
 Like the bubble on the fountain,
 Thou art gone, and for ever !

THE LADY OF THE LAKE.

A CHIEFTAIN'S daughter seemed the
 maid ;
 Her satin snood, her silken plaid,
 Her golden brooch, such birth betrayed.
 And seldom was a snood amid
 Such wild luxuriant ringlets hid ;
 Whose glossy black to shame might bring
 The plumage of the raven's wing ;
 And seldom o'er a breast so fair
 Mantled a plaid with modest care ;
 And never brooch the folds combined
 Above a heart more good and kind.
 Her kindness and her worth to spy,
 You need but gaze on Ellen's eye ;
 Not Katrine, in her mirror blue,
 Gives back the shaggy banks more true,
 Than every free-born glance confessed
 The guileless movements of her breast ;
 Whether joy danced in her dark eye,
 Or woe or pity claimed a sigh,
 Or filial love was glowing there,
 Or meek devotion poured a prayer,

Or tale of injury called forth
 The indignant spirit of the north.
 One only passion unrevealed,
 With maiden pride the maid concealed,
 Yet not less purely felt the flame ;—
 O need I tell that passion's name ?

SCENERY OF THE TROSACHS.

THE western waves of ebbing day
 Rolled o'er the glen their level way ;
 Each purple peak, each flinty spire,
 Was bathed in floods of living fire.
 But not a setting beam could glow
 Within the dark ravines below,
 Where twined the path, in shadow hid,
 Round many a rocky pyramid,
 Shooting abruptly from the dell
 Its thunder-splintered pinnacle ;
 Round many an insulated mass,
 The native bulwarks of the pass,
 Huge as the tower which builders vain
 Presumptuous piled on Shinar's plain.
 Their rocky summits, split and rent,
 Formed turret, dome, or battlement,
 Or seemed fantastically set
 With cupola or minaret,
 Wild crests as pagod ever decked,
 Or mosque of eastern architect.
 Nor were these earth-born castles bare,
 Nor lacked they many a banner fair ;
 For, from their shivered brows displayed,
 Far o'er the unfathomable glade,
 All twinkling with the dew-drop sheen,
 The brier-rose fell in streamers green,
 And creeping shrubs of thousand dyes,
 Waved in the west-wind's summer sighs.

Boon nature scattered, free and wild,
 Each plant or flower, the mountain's
 child.

Here eglantine embalmed the air,
 Hawthorn and hazel mingled there ;
 The primrose pale, and violet flower,
 Found in each cliff a narrow bower ;
 Fox-glove and night-shade, side by side,
 Emblems of punishment and pride,
 Grouped their dark hues with every stain,
 The weather-beaten crags retain.
 With boughs that quaked at every breath,
 Grey birch and aspen wept beneath ;

Aloft, the ash and warrior oak
 Cast anchor in the rifted rock ;
 And higher yet, the pine-tree hung
 His shattered trunk, and frequent flung,
 Where seemed the cliffs to meet on high,
 His boughs athwart the narrowed sky.
 Highest of all, where white peaks glanced,
 Where glistening streamers waved and
 danced,

The wanderer's eye could barely view
 The summer heaven's delicious blue ;
 So wondrous wild, the whole might seem
 The scenery of a fairy dream.

Onward, amid the copse 'gan peep
 A narrow inlet, still and deep,
 Affording scarce such breadth of brim,
 As served the wild-duck's brood to swim ;
 Lost for a space, through thickets veering.
 But broader when again appearing,
 Tall rocks and tufted knolls their face
 Could on the dark-blue mirror trace ;
 And farther as the hunter strayed,
 Still broader sweep its channels made.
 The shaggy mounds no longer stood,
 Emerging from entangled wood,
 But, wave-encircled, seemed to float,
 Like castle girdled with its moat ;
 Yet broader floods extending still,
 Divide them from their parent hill,
 Till each, retiring, claims to be
 An islet in an inland sea.

And now, to issue from the glen,
 No pathway meets the wanderer's ken,
 Unless he climb, with footing nice,
 A far projecting precipice.
 The broom's tough roots his ladder made,
 The hazel saplings lent their aid ;
 And thus an airy point he won.
 Where, gleaming with the setting sun,
 One burnished sheet of living gold,
 Loch-Katrine lay beneath him rolled ;
 In all her length far winding lay,
 With promontory, creek, and bay,
 And islands that, empurpled bright,
 Floated amid the livelier light ;
 And mountains, that like giants stand,
 To sentinel enchanted land.
 High on the south, huge Ben-venue
 Down to the lake in masses threw
 Crags, knolls, and mounds, confusedly
 hurled,

The fragments of an earlier world ;
 A wildering forest feathered o'er
 His ruined sides and summit hoar,
 While on the north, through middle
 air,
 Ben-an heaved high his forehead bare.

From the steep promontory gazed
 The stranger, raptured and amazed,
 And "What a scene were here," he
 cried,
 "For princely pomp or churchman's
 pride !

On this bold brow, a lordly tower ;
 In that soft vale, a lady's bower ;
 On yonder meadow, far away,
 The turrets of a cloister grey ;
 How blithely might the bugle-horn
 Chide, on the lake, the lingering
 morn !

How sweet, at eve, the lover's lute,
 Chime, when the groves are still and
 mute !

And, when the midnight moon should
 lave

Her forehead in the silver wave,
 How solemn on the ear would come
 The holy matins' distant hum,
 While the deep peal's commanding tone
 Should wake, in yonder islet lone,
 A sainted hermit from his cell,
 To drop a bead with every knell—
 And bugle, lute, and bell, and all,
 Should each bewildered stranger call
 To friendly feast and lighted hall."

SOLDIER, REST !

SOLDIER, rest ! thy warfare o'er,
 Sleep the sleep that knows not break-
 ing !

Dream of battled fields no more,
 Days of danger, nights of waking.
 In our isle's enchanted hall,

Hands unseen thy couch are strewing,
 Fairy streams of music fall,
 Every sense in slumber dewing.

Soldier, rest ! thy warfare o'er,
 Dream of fighting fields no more ;
 Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking.
 Morn of toil, nor night of waking.

No rude sound shall reach thine ear,
 Armour's clang, or war-steed champing,
 Trump nor pibroch summon here
 Mustering clan, or squadron tramping.
 Yet the lark's shrill life may come,
 At the daybreak from the fallow,
 And the bitter sound his drum,
 Booming from the sedgy shallow.
 Ruder sounds shall none be near,
 Guards nor warders challenge here,
 Here's no war-steed's neigh and champing,
 Shouting clans or squadrons stamping.

"Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done,
 While our slumbrous spells assail ye,
 Dream not with the rising sun
 Bugles here shall sound reveillé.
 Sleep! the deer is in his den;
 Sleep! thy hounds are by thee lying;
 Sleep! nor dream in yonder glen,
 How thy gallant steed lay dying.
 Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done,
 Think not of the rising sun,
 For at dawning to assail ye,
 Here no bugles sound reveillé."

HAIL TO THE CHIEF.*

HAIL to the chief who in triumph
 advances!
 Honoured and blessed be the ever-green
 pine!
 Long may the tree in his banner that
 glances,
 Flourish, the shelter and grace of our
 line!
 Heaven send it happy dew,
 Earth lend it sap anew;
 Gaily to bourgeon, and broadly to
 grow,
 While every Highland glen
 Sends our shout back agen,
 "Roderich Vich Alpine dhu, ho!
 ieroe!"

* This song is intended as an imitation of the *forrans*, or boat-songs of the Highlanders, which were usually composed in honour of a favourite chief. They are so adapted as to keep time with the sweep of the oars, and it is easy to distinguish between those intended to be sung to the oars of a galley, where the stroke is lengthened and doubled, as it were, and those which were timed to the rowers of an ordinary boat.

Ours is no sapling, chance-sown by the
 fountain,
 Blooming at Beltane, in winter to
 fade;
 When the whirlwind has stripped every
 leaf on the mountain,
 The more shall Clan-Alpine exult in
 her shade.
 Moored in the rifted rock,
 Proof to the tempest's shock,
 Firmer he roots him the ruder it
 blow;
 Menteth and Breadalbane, then,
 Echo his praise agen,
 "Roderich Vich Alpine dhu, ho!
 ieroe!"

Proudly our pibroch has thrilled in Glen
 Frunn,
 And Banochar's groans to our slogan
 replied:
 Glen Luss and Ross-dhu, they are smok-
 ing in ruin,
 And the best of Loch-Lomond lie dead
 on her side.
 Widow and Saxon maid
 Long shall lament our raid,
 Think of Clan-Alpine with fear and
 with woe;
 Lennox and Leven-glen
 Shake when they hear agen,
 "Roderich Vich Alpine dhu, ho!
 ieroe!"

Row, vassals, row, for the pride of the
 Highlands!
 Stretch to your oars, for the ever-green
 pine!
 O! that the rosebud that graces yon
 islands,
 Were wreathed in a garland around
 him to twine!
 O that some seedling gem
 Worthy such noble stem,
 Honoured and blessed in their shadow
 might grow!
 Loud should Clan-Alpine then
 Ring from her deepmost glen,
 "Roderich Vich Alpine dhu, ho!
 ieroe!"

THE HEATH THIS NIGHT MUST BE MY BED.

The Lady of the Lake.

THE heath this night must be my bed,
The bracken curtain for my head,
My lullaby the warder's tread,
Far, far from love and thee, Mary ;
To-morrow eve, more stilly laid,
My couch may be my bloody plaid,
My vesper song, thy wail, sweet maid !
It will not waken me, Mary !

I may not, dare not, fancy now
The grief that clouds thy lovely brow ;
I dare not think upon thy vow,
And all it promise me, Mary.
No fond regret must Norman know ;
When bursts Clan-Alpine on the foe,
His heart must be like bended bow,
His foot like arrow free, Mary.

A time will come with feeling fraught !
For, if I fall in battle fought,
Thy hapless lover's dying thought
Shall be a thought on thee, Mary.
And if returned from conquered foes,
How blithely will the evening close,
How sweet the linnet sing repose
To my young bride and me, Mary !

HYMN TO THE VIRGIN.

AVE MARIA ! Maiden mild !
Listen to a maiden's prayer :
Thou canst hear though from the wild,
Thou can save amid despair.
Safe may we sleep beneath thy care,
Though banished, outcast, and reviled—
Maiden ! hear a maiden's prayer ;
Mother, hear a suppliant child !

Ave Maria !

Ave Maria ! undefiled !

The flinty couch we now must share,
Shall seem with down of eider piled,
If thy protection hover there.
The murky cavern's heavy air
Shall breathe of balm if thou hast
smiled ;

Then, Maiden ! hear a maiden's prayer,
Mother, list a suppliant child !

Ave Maria !

Ave Maria ! stainless styled !

Foul demons of the earth and air,
From this their wonted haunt exiled,
Shall flee before thy presence fair.
We bow us to our lot of care,
Beneath thy guidance reconciled ;
Hear for a maid a maiden's prayer !
And for a father hear a child !

Ave Maria !

LOVE AND THE ROSE.

THE rose is fairest when 'tis budding
new,
And hope is brightest when it dawns
from fears ; [ing dew,
The rose is sweetest washed with morn-
And love is loveliest when embalmed
in tears.
O wilding rose, whom fancy thus en-
dears, [wave,
I bid your blossoms in my bonnet
Emblem of hope and love through future
years !

KING JAMES OF SCOTLAND.

THE castle gates were open flung,
The quivering drawbridge rocked and
rung,
And echoed loud the flinty street
Beneath the coursers' clattering feet,
As slowly down the steep descent
Fair Scotland's King and nobles went,
While all along the crowded way
Was jubilee and loud huzza.
And ever James was bending low,
To his white jennet's saddle-bow,
Doffing his cap to city dame,
Who smiled and blushed for pride and
shame :

And well the simperer might be vain—
He chose the fairest of the train
Gravely he greets each city sire,
Commends each pageant's quaint attire,
Gives to the dancers thanks aloud,
And smiles and nods upon the crowd,
Who rend the heavens with their ac-
claims,
"Long live the Commons' King, King
James !"

LAY OF THE IMPRISONED HUNTSMAN.

My hawk is tired of perch and hood,
My idle greyhound loathes his food,
My horse is weary of his stall,
And I am sick of captive thrall.
I wish I were as I have been,
Hunting the hart in forests green,
With bended bow and bloodhound free,
For that's the life is meet for me.

I hate to learn the ebb of time
From yon dull steeple's drowsy chime,
Or mark it as the sunbeams crawl,
Inch after inch, along the wall.
The lark was wont my matins ring,
The sable rook my vespers sing;
These towers, although a king's they be,
Have not a hall of joy for me.

No more at dawning morn I rise,
And sun my eyes on life's eyes,
Drive the fleet deer the forest through,
And homeward wend with evening dew;
A blithesome welcome blithely meet,
And lay my trophies at her feet,
While fled the eve on wing of glee,—
That life is lost to love and me!

MAN THE ENEMY OF MAN.

Rokeby.

THE hunting tribes of air and earth
Respect the brethren of their birth;
Nature, who loves the claim of kind,
Less cruel chase to each assigned.
The falcon, poised on soaring wing,
Watches the wild-duck by the spring;
The slow-hound wakes the fox's lair;
The greyhound presses on the hare;
The eagle pounces on the lamb;
The wolf devours the fleecy dam;
Even tiger fell, and sullen bear,
Their likeness and their lineage spare.
Man, only, mars kind Nature's plan,
And turns the fierce pursuit on man;
Plying war's desultory trade,
Incurion, flight, and ambushade,
Since Nimrod, Cush's mighty son,
At first the bloody game begun.

A WEARY LOT IS THINE.

"A WEARY lot is thine, fair maid,
A weary lot is thine!
To pull the thorn thy brow to braid,
And press the rue for wine!
A lightsome eye, a soldier's mien,
A feather of the blue,
A doublet of the Lincoln green,—
No more of me you knew,
My love!
No more of me you knew.

"This morn is merry June, I trow,
The rose is budding fain;
But she shall bloom in winter snow,
Ere we two meet again."
He turned his charger as he spake,
Upon the river shore,
He gave his bridle-reins a shake,
Said, "Adieu for evermore,
My love!
And adieu for evermore."

ALLEN-A-DALE.

ALLEN-A-DALE has no faggot for burning,
Allen-a-Dale has no furrow for turning,
Allen-a-Dale has no fleece for the spinning.

Yet Allen-a-Dale has red gold for the winning.

Come, read me my riddle! come,
hearken my tale!

And tell me the craft of bold Allen-a-Dale.

The Baron of Ravensworth prances in pride,

And he views his domains upon Arkin-dale side.

The mere for his net, and the land for his game,

The chase for the wild, and the park for the tame;

Yet the fish of the lake, and the deer on the vale,

Are less free to Lord Dacre than Allen-a-Dale!

Allen-a-Dale was ne'er belted a knight,
Though his spur be as sharp, and his blade be as bright;

Allen-a-dale is no baron or lord,
Yet twenty tall yeomen will draw at his
word ; [will veil,
And the best of our nobles his bonnet
Who at Kere-cross on Stanmore meets
Allen-a-dale.

Allen-a-Dale to his wooing is come ;
The mother, she asked of his household
and home :
" Though the castle of Richmond stand
fair on the hill,
My hall," quoth bold Allen, " shows
gallanter still ;
'Tis the blue vault of heaven, with its
crescent so pale,
And with all its bright spangles !" said
Allen-a-Dale.

The father was steel, and the mother was
stone ; [be gone ;
They lifted the latch, and they bade him
But loud, on the morrow, their wail and
their cry :
He had laughed on the lass with his
bonny black eye, [tale,
And she fled to the forest to hear a love-
And the youth it was told by was Allen-
a-dale !

THE HARPER.

SUMMER eve is gone and passed,
Summer dew is falling fast ;
I have wandered all the day,
Do not bid me farther stray !
Gentle hearts of gentle kin,
Take the wandering harper in !

Bid not me, in battle-field,
Buckler lift, or broadsword wield !
All my strength and all my art
Is to touch the gentle heart,
With the wizard notes that ring
From the peaceful minstrel-string.

I have song of war for knight,
Lay of love for lady bright,
Fairy tale to lull the heir,
Goblin grim the maids to scare ;
Dark the night, and long till day,
Do not bid me farther stray !

Rokeby's lords of martial fame,
I can count them name by name ;
Legends of their line there be,
Known to few, but known to me
If you honour Rokeby's kin,
Take the wandering harper in !

Rokeby's lords had fair regard
For the harp, and for the bard ;
Baron's race throve never well,
Where the curse of minstrel fell ;
If you love that noble kin,
Take the weary harper in !

THE CYPRESS WREATH.

O LADY, twine no wreath for me
Or twine it of the cypress-tree !
Too lively glow the lilies light,
The varnished holly's all too bright,
The May-flower and the eglantine
May shade a brow less sad than mine ;
But, lady, weave no wreath for me,
Or weave it of the cypress-tree !

Let dimpled Mirth his temples twine
With tendrils of the laughing vine ;
The manly oak, the pensive yew,
To patriot and to sage be due ;
The myrtle bough bids lovers live,
But that Matilda will not give ;
Then, lady, twine no wreath for me,
Or twine it of the cypress-tree !

Let merry England proudly rear
Her blended roses, bought so dear ;
Let Albin bind her bonnet blue
With heath and harebell dipped in dew ;
On favoured Erin's crest be seen
The flower she loves of emerald green—
But, lady, twine no wreath for me,
Or twine it of the cypress-tree.

Strike the wild harp, while maids pre-
pare
The ivy meet for minstrel's hair ;
And, while his crown of laurel-leaves
With bloody hand the victor weaves,
Let the loud trump his triumph tell ;
But when you hear the passing bell,
Then, lady, twine a wreath for me,
And twine it of the cypress-tree.

Yes ! twine for me the cypress bough ;
 But, O Matilda, twine not now !
 Stay till a few brief months are passed,
 And I have looked and loved my last !
 When villagers my shroud bestrew
 With pansies, rosemary, and rue,—
 Then, lady, weave a wreath for me,
 And weave it of the cypress-tree.

STAFFA AND IONA.

MERRILY, merrily, goes the bark
 On a breeze from the northward flee,
 So shoots through the morning sky the
 lark,

Or the swan through the summer sea.
 The shores of Mull on the eastward lay,
 And Ulva dark and Colonsay,
 And all the group of islets gay
 That guard famed Staffa round.
 Then all unknown its columns rose,
 Where dark and undisturbed repose

The cormorant had found,
 And the shy seal had quiet home,
 And weltered in that wondrous dome,
 Where, as to shame the temples decked
 By skill of earthly architect,
 Nature herself, it seemed, would raise
 A minster to her Maker's praise !
 Not for a meaner use ascend
 Her columns, or her arches bend ;
 Nor of a theme less solemn tells
 That mighty surge that ebbs and swells,
 And still, between each awful pause,
 From the high vault an answer draws,
 In varied tone prolonged and high,
 That mocks the organ's melody.
 Nor doth its entrance front in vain
 To old Iona's holy fane,
 That Nature's voice might seem to say,
 "Well hast thou done, frail child of
 clay !

Thy humble powers that stately shrine
 Tasked high and hard—but witness
 mine !"

ANNOY LYLE'S SONG.

WERT thou, like me, in life's low vale.
 With thee how blest, that lot I'd share ;
 With thee I'd fly wherever gale
 Could waft, or bounding galley bear.

But, parted by severe decree,
 Far different must our fortunes prove ;
 May thine be joy—enough for me
 To weep and pray for him I love.

The pangs this foolish heart must feel,
 When hope shall be forever flown,
 No sullen murmur shall reveal,
 No selfish murmurs ever own.

Nor will I, through life's weary years,
 Like a pale drooping mourner move,
 While I can think my secret tears
 May wound the heart of him I love.

THE HUNTSMAN'S DIRGE.

THE smiling morn may light the sky,
 And joy may dance in beauty's eye,
 Aurora's beams to see :
 The mellow horn's inspiring sound
 May call the blithe companions round,
 But who shall waken thee,
 Ronald ?

Thou ne'er wilt hear the mellow horn,
 Thou ne'er wilt quaff the breath of morn,
 Nor join thy friends with glee ;
 No glorious sun shall gild thy day,
 And beauty's fascinating ray
 No more shall shine on thee,
 Ronald !

WAKEN, LORDS AND LADIES GAY.

WAKEN, lords and ladies gay,
 On the mountain dawns the day.
 All the jolly chase is here,
 With horse, and hawk, and hunting spear !
 Hounds are in their couples yelling,
 Hawks are whistling, horns are knelling.
 Merrily, merrily, mingle they,
 "Waken, lords and ladies gay."

Waken, lords and ladies gay,
 The mist has left the mountain gray,
 Springlets in the dawn are streaming,
 Diamonds on the brake are gleaming,

And foresters have busy been
To track the buck in thicket green ;
Now we come to chant our lay,
"Waken, lords and ladies gay."

Waken, lords and ladies gay,
To the greenwood haste away ;
We can show you where he lies,
Fleet of foot, and tall of size ;
We can show the marks he made
When 'gainst the oak his antlers frayed ;
You shall see him brought to bay,—
"Waken, lords and ladies gay."

Louder, louder chant the lay,
Waken lords and ladies gay ;
Tell them youth, and mirth, and glee,
Run a course as well as we ;
Time, stern huntsman, who can baulk,
Stanch as hound, and fleet as hawk ?
Think of this, and rise with day,
Gentle lords and ladies gay.

SONG OF MEG MERRILIES AT THE BIRTH OF THE INFANT.

Twist ye, twine ye ! even so,
Mingle shades of joy and woe,
Hope, and fear, and peace, and strife,
In the thread of human life.

While the mystic twist is spinning,
And the infant's life beginning,
Dimly seen through twilight bending,
Lo, what varied shapes attending !

Passions wild, and follies vain,
Pleasure soon exchanged for pain ;
Doubt, and jealousy, and fear,
In the magic dance appear.

Now they wax, and now they dwindle
Whirling with the whirling spindle.
Twist ye, twine ye ! even so,
Mingle human bliss and woe

SONG OF MEG MERRILIES FOR THE PARTING SPIRIT.

WASTED, weary, wherefore stay,
Wrestling thus with earth and clay ?
From the body pass away !
Hark ! the mass is singing.

From thee doff thy mortal weed,
Mary Mother be thy speed,
Saints to help thee at thy need ;—
Hark ! the knell is ringing.

Fear not snow-drift driving fast,
Sleet, or hail, or levin blast ;
Soon the shroud shall lap thee fast,
And the sleep be on thee cast
That shall ne'er know waking.

Haste thee, haste thee, to be gone,
Earth flits fast, and time draws on,—
Gasp thy gasp, and groan thy groan,
Day is near the breaking.

TIME.

"WHY sitt'st thou by that ruined haire,
Thou aged carle so stern and gray ?
Dost thou its former pride recall,
Or ponder how it passed away ?"—

"Know'st thou not me ?" the Deep Voice
cried ;

"So long enjoyed, so oft misused—
Alternate, in thy fickle pride,
Desired, neglected, and accused !

"Before my breath, like blazing flax,
Man and his marvels pass away :
And changing empires wane and wax,
Are founded, flourish, and decay.

"Redeem mine hours—the space is brief—
While in my glass the sand-grains
shiver,
And measureless thy joy or grief,
When Time and thou shalt part for
ever."

REBECCA'S HYMN.

WHEN Israel, of the Lord beloved,
Out from the land of bondage came,
Her fathers' God before her moved,
An awful guide in smoke and flame.
By day, along the astonished lands
The cloudy pillar glided slow ;
By night, Arabia's crimsoned sands
Returned the fiery column's glow.

There rose the choral hymn of praise,
And trump and timbrel answered keen;
And Zion's daughters poured their lays,
With priest's and warrior's voice be-
tween.

No portents now our foes amaze,
Forsaken Israel wanders lone:
Our fathers would not know Thy ways,
And Thou hast left them to their own.

But present still, though now unseen!
When brightly shines the prosperous
day,

Be thoughts of Thee a cloudy screen
To temper the deceitful ray.
And oh, when stoops on Judah's path
In shade and storm the frequent night,
Be Thou, long-suffering, slow to wrath,
A burning and a shining light!

Our harps we left by foreign streams,
The tyrant's jest, the gentile's scorn;
No censor round our altar beams,
And mute are timbrel, harp, and horn.
But Thou hast said, the blood of goat,
The flesh of rams, I will not prize;
A contrite heart, a humble thought,
Are mine accepted sacrifice.

WAR SONG

OF THE ROYAL EDINBURGH LIGHT
DRAGOONS.

To horse! to horse! the standard flies,
The bugles sound the call;
The Gallic navy stems the seas,
The voice of battle's on the breeze,—
Arouse ye, one and all!

From high Dunedin's towers we come,
A band of brothers true;
Our casques the leopard's spoils surround,
With Scotland's hardy thistle crowned;
We boast the red and blue.

Though tamely crouch to Gallia's frown
Dull Holland's tardy train;
Their ravished toys though Romans
mourn,
Though gallant Switzers vainly spurn,
And, foaming, gnaw the chain;

O! had they marked the avenging call
Their brethren's murder gave,
Disunion ne'er their ranks had mown,
Nor patriot valour, desperate grown,
Sought freedom in the grave!

Shall we, too, bend the stubborn head,
In Freedom's temple born,
Dress our pale cheek in timid smile,
To hail a master in our isle,
Or brook a victor's scorn?

No! though destruction o'er the land
Come pouring as a flood,
The sun, that sees our falling day,
Shall mark our sabres' deadly sway,
And set that night in blood.

For gold let Gallia's legions fight,
Or plunder's bloody gain;
Unbribed, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard our King, to fence our Law,
Nor shall their edge be vain.

If ever breath of British gale
Shall fan the tricolor,
Or footstep of the invader rude,
With rapine foul, and red with blood,
Pollute our happy shore,—

Then farewell home! and farewell friends!
Adieu each tender tie!
Resolved, we mingle in the tide,
Where charging squadrons furious ride,
To conquer, or to die.

To horse! to horse! the sabres gleam;
High sounds our bugle call;
Combined by honour's sacred tie,
Our word is *Law and Liberty!*
March forward, one and all!

[LEIGH HUNT. 1784—1859.]

ABOU BEN ADHIEM AND THE ANGEL.

ABOU BEN ADHIEM (may his tribe in-
crease)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of
peace,

And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
 Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom.
 An angel, writing in a book of gold :—
 Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
 And to the presence in the room he said,
 "What writest thou?"—The vision raised
 its head,
 And, with a look made of all sweet accord,
 Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
 "And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
 Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
 But cheerily still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
 Write me as one that loves his fellow-men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
 It came again with a great wakening light,
 And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
 And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

MORNING AT RAVENNA.

'Tis morn, and never did a lovelier day
 Salute Ravenna from its leafy bay :
 For a warm eve, and gentle rains at night,
 Have left a sparkling welcome for the light,
 And April, with his white hands wet with flowers,
 Dazzles the bride-maids looking from the towers :
 Green vineyards and fair orchards, far and near,
 Glitter with drops, and heaven is sapphire clear,
 And the lark rings it, and the pine trees glow,
 And odours from the citrons come and go.

And all the landscape—earth, and sky, and sea,
 Breathes like a bright-eyed face that laughs out openly.

The seats with boughs are shaded from above
 Of bays and roses—trees of wit and love,
 And in the midst, fresh whistling through the scene,
 The lightsome fountain starts from out Clear and compact; till, at its height o'errun,
 It shakes its loosening silver in the sun.

THE GLOVE AND THE LIONS.

KING FRANCIS was a hearty king, and loved a royal sport,
 And one day, as his lions strove, sat looking on the court :
 The nobles filled the benches round, the ladies by their side,
 And 'mongst them Count de Lorge, with one he hoped to make his bride;
 And truly 'twas a gallant thing to see that crowning show,
 Valour and love, and a king above, and the royal beasts below.

Ramped and roared the lions, with horrid laughing jaws ;
 They bit, they glared, gave blows like beams, a wind went with their paws ;
 With wallowing might and stifled roar they rolled one on another,
 Till all the pit, with sand and mane, was in a thund'rous smother ;
 The bloody foam above the bars came whizzing through the air ;
 Said Francis then, "Good gentlemen, we're better here than there !"

De Lorge's love o'erheard the king, a beauteous, lively dame,
 With smiling lips, and sharp bright eyes, which always seemed the same :
 She thought, "The Count, my lover, is as brave as brave can be ;
 He surely would do desperate things to show his love of me !"

King, ladies, lovers, all look on ; the
chance is wondrous fine ;
I'll drop my glove to prove his love ;
great glory will be mine ! ”

She dropped her glove to prove his love :
then looked on him and smiled ;
He bowed, and in a moment leaped
among the lions wild :

The leap was quick ; return was quick ;
he soon regained his place ;

Then threw the glove, but not with love,
right in the lady's face !

“ In truth ! ” cried Francis, “ rightly done ! ”
and he rose from where he sat :

“ No love, ” quoth he, “ but vanity, sets
love a task like that ! ”

AN ANGEL IN THE HOUSE.

How sweet it were, if without feeble
fright,

Or dying of the dreadful beauteous sight,
An angel came to us, and we could bear
To see him issue from the silent air
At evening in our room, and bend on ours
His divine eyes, and bring us from his
bowers

News of dear friends, and children who
have never [ever.

Been dead indeed,—as we shall know for
Alas ! we think not what we daily see
About our hearths,—angels, that are to be,
Or may be if they will, and we prepare
Their souls and ours to meet in happy
air,—

A child, a friend, a wife whose soft heart
sings

In union with ours, breeding its future
wings.

* ~~~~~
[THOMAS HOOD. 1798—1845.]

THE SONG OF THE SHIRT.

WITH fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch—stitch—stitch !

In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
he sang the “ Song of the Shirt ! ”

“ Work—work—work !

While the cock is crowing aloof ;
And work—work—work
Till the stars shine through the roof !
It's O ! to be a slave

Along with the barbarous Turk,
Where woman has never a soul to save
If this is Christian work !

“ Work—work—work

Till the brain begins to swim ;

• Work—work—work

Till the eyes are heavy and dim !

Seam, and gusset, and band,—

Band, and gusset, and seam,

Till over the buttons I fall asleep,

And sew them on in a dream !

“ O ! men with Sisters dear !

O ! men with Mothers and Wives !

It is not linen you're wearing out,

But human creatures' lives !

Stitch—stitch—stitch,

In poverty, hunger, and dirt,

Sewing at once with a double thread,

A Shroud as well as a Shirt.

“ But why do I talk of Death !

That ; phantom of grisly bone,

I hardly fear his terrible shape,

It seems so like my own—

It seems so like my own,

Because of the fasts I keep ;

Oh God ! that bread should be so dear,

And flesh and blood so cheap !

“ Work—work—work !

My labour never flags ;

And what are its wages ? A bed of straw,

A crust of bread—and rags.

That shattered roof,—and this naked
floor,—

A table,—a broken chair,—

And a wall so blank, my shadow I thank

For sometimes falling there.

“ Work—work—work !

From weary chime to chime,

Work—work—work

As prisoners work for crime !

Band, and gusset, and seam,

Seam, and gusset, and band,

Till the heart is sick, and the brain be-
numbed, /

As well as the weary hand.

"Work—work—work,
In the dull December light,
And work—work—work,
When the weather is warm and bright—
While underneath the eaves
The brooding swallows cling,
As if to show me their sunny backs
And twit me with the Spring.

"Oh ! but to breathe the breath
Of the cowslip and primrose sweet—
With the sky above my head,
And the grass beneath my feet,
For only one short hour
To feel as I used to feel,
Before I knew the woes of want
And the walk that costs a meal !

"Oh ! but for one short hour !
A respite however brief !
No blessed leisure for Love or Hope,
But only time for Grief !
A little weeping would ease my heart,
But in their briny bed
My tears must stop, for every drop
Hinders needle and thread !"

With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat, in womanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread—
Stitch—stitch—stitch !
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch,—
Would that its tone could reach the Rich !
She sang this "Song of the Shirt !"

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHs.

ONE more unfortunate,
Weary of breath,
Rashly importunate,
Gone to her death !

Take her up tenderly,
Lift her with care ;
Fashioned so slenderly,
Young, and so fair.

Look at her garments
Clinging like cerements ;

Whilst the wave constantly
Drips from her clothing ;
Take her up instantly,
Loving, not loathing.

Touch her not scornfully ;
Think of her mournfully ;
Gently and humanly ;
Not of the stains of her ;
All that remains of her
Now is pure womanly.

Make no deep scrutiny
Into her mutiny
Rash and undutiful ;
Past all dishonour,
Death has left on her
Only the beautiful.

Still, for all slips of hers,
One of Eve's family,
Wipe those poor lips of hers
Oozing so clammy.

Loop up her tresses,
Escaped from the comb,
Her fair auburn tresses ;
Whilst wonderment guesses
Where was her home ?
Who was her father ?
Who was her mother ?
Had she a sister ?
Had she a brother ?
Or was there a dearer one
Still, or a nearer one
Yet, than all other ?

Alas ! for the rarity
Of Christian charity
Under the sun !
Oh ! it was pitiful,
Near a whole city full,
Home had she none !

Sisterly, brotherly,
Fatherly, motherly,
Feelings had changed ;
Love, by harsh evidence
Thrown from its eminence,
Even God's providence
Seeming estranged.

When the lamps quiver
So far in the river,
With many a light
From many a casement,
From garret to basement,
She stood, with amazement,
Houseless by night.

The bleak wind of March
Made her tremble and shiver,
But not the dark arch
Or the black flowing river.
Mad from life's history,
Glad to death's mystery,
Swift to be hurled
Anywhere! anywhere
Out of the world!

In she plunged boldly,
No matter how coldly
The rough river ran;
Over the brink of it,
Picture it—think of it,
Dissolute man!
Lave in it—drink of it
Then, if you can.

Take her up tenderly,
Lift her with care,
Fashioned so slenderly,
Young, and so fair.

Ere her limbs frigidly
Stiffen too rigidly,
Decently, kindly
Smooth and compose them;
And her eyes, close them,
Staring so blindly!

Dreadfully staring
Through muddy impurity,
As when with the daring,
Last look of despairing,
Fixed on futurity.

Perishing gloomily,
Spurned by contumely,
Bold inhumanity,
Burning insanity,
Into her rest;
Cross her hands dumbly,
As if praying dumbly,
Over her breast!

Owning her weakness,
Her evil behaviour,
And leaving, with meekness,
Her sins to her Saviour.

SONG.

THE stars are with the voyager,
Wherever he may sail;
The moon is constant to her time,
The sun will never fail,
But follow, follow, round the world,
The green earth and the sea;
So love is with the lover's heart,
Wherever he may be.

Wherever he may be, the stars
Must daily lose their light,
The moon will veil her in the shade,
The sun will set at night;
The sun may set, but constant love
Will shine when he's away,
So that dull night is never night,
And day is brighter day.

RUTH.

SHE stood breast high amid the corn,
Clasped by the golden light of morn,
Like the sweetheart of the sun,
Who many a glowing kiss had won.

On her cheek an autumn flush
Deeply ripened—such a blush
In the midst of brown was born—
Like red poppies grown with corn.

Round her eyes her tresses fell,
Which were blackest none could tell,
But long lashes veiled a light
That had else been all too bright.

And her hat, with shady brim,
Made her tressy forehead dim :—
Thus she stood amid the stooks,
Praising God with sweetest looks :—

Sure, I said, Heav'n did not mean
Where I reap, thou shouldst but glean,
Lay thy sheaf adown and come
Share my harvest and my home.

I LOVE THEE! I LOVE THEE!

I love thee! I love thee!
 'Tis all that I can say;—
 It is my vision in the night,
 My dreaming in the day;
 The very echo of my heart,
 The blessing when I pray,
 I love thee! I love thee!
 Is all that I can say.

I love thee! I love thee!
 Is ever on my tongue;
 In all my proudest poesy,
 That chorus still is sung.
 It is the verdict of my eyes
 Amidst the gay and young;
 I love thee! I love thee!
 A thousand maids among.

I love thee! I love thee!
 Thy bright and hazel glance,
 The mellow lute upon those lips
 Whose tender tones entrance.
 But most, dear heart of hearts, thy *proofs*,
 That still these words enhance;
 I love thee! I love thee!
 Whatever be thy chance.

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FAIR INES.

O SAW you not fair Ines?  
 She's gone into the West,  
 To dazzle when the sun is down,  
 And rob the world of rest.  
 She took our daylight with her,  
 The smiles that we love best,  
 With morning blushes on her cheek,  
 And pearls upon her breast. ❀

Oh, turn again, fair Ines!  
 Before the fall of night,  
 For fear the moon should shine alone,  
 And stars unrivalled bright.  
 And blessed will the lover be,  
 That walks beneath their light,  
 And breathes the love against thy cheek,  
 I dare not even write!

Would I had been, fair Ines,  
 That gallant cavalier,  
 Who rode so gaily by thy side  
 And whispered thee so near!—

Were there no loving dames at home,  
 Or no true lovers here,  
 That he should cross the seas to win  
 The dearest of the dear?

I saw thee, lovely Ines,  
 Descend along the shore,  
 With a band of noble gentlemen,  
 And banners waved before,  
 And gentle youths and maidens gay—  
 And snowy plumes they wore;  
 It would have been a beauteous dream,  
 —If it had been no more!

Alas, alas, fair Ines!  
 She went away with song,  
 With music waiting on her steps,  
 And shoutings of the throng.  
 And some were sad, and felt no mirth,  
 But only music's wrong,  
 In sounds that sang, Farewell, farewell,  
 To her you've loved so long.

Farewell, farewell, fair Ines,  
 That vessel never bore  
 So fair a lady on its decks,  
 Nor danced so light before.  
 Alas for pleasure on the sea,  
 And sorrow on the shore;  
 The smile that blest one lover's heart,  
 Has broken many more!

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LINES ON SEEING MY WIFE
AND TWO CHILDREN SLEEP-
ING IN THE SAME CHAMBER.

AND has the earth lost its so spacious
 round,
 The sky, its blue circumference above,
 That in this little chamber there is found
 Both earth and heaven—my universe of
 Love?
 All that my God can give me or remove,
 Here sleeping, save myself, in mimic
 death,
 Sweet that in this small compass I
 behave
 To live their living, and to breathe their
 breath!

Almost I wish, that with one common
 sigh, [strife;
 We might resign all mundane care and
 And seek together that transcendent sky,
 Where Father, Mother, Children, Hus-
 band, Wife,
 Together pant in everlasting life !

(GEORGE GORDON LORD BYRON. 1788—1824)

BEAUTY OF GREECE AND THE GRECIAN ISLES.

The Giaour.

FAIR clime ! where every season
 smiles
 Benignant o'er those blessèd isles,
 Which, seen from far Colonna's height,
 Make glad the heart that hails the sight,
 And lend to loneliness delight.
 There mildly dimpling, Ocean's cheek
 Reflects the tints of many a peak
 Caught by the laughing tides that lave
 These Edens of the Eastern wave :
 And if at times a transient breeze
 Break the blue crystal of the seas,
 Or sweep one blossom from the trees,
 How welcome is each gentle air
 That wakes and wafts the odours there !
 For there—the rose o'er crag or vale,
 Sultana of the Nightingale,

The maid for whom his melody,
 His thousand songs are heard on high,
 Blooms blushing to her lover's tale ;
 His queen, the garden queen, his Rose,
 Unbent by winds, unchilled by snows,
 Far from the winters of the West,
 By every breeze and season blest,
 Returns the sweets by nature given
 In softest incense back to heaven ;
 And grateful yields that smiling sky
 Her fairest hue and fragrant sigh.
 And many a summer flower is there,
 And many a shade that love might share,
 And many a grotto, meant for rest,
 That holds the pirate for a guest ;
 Whose bark in sheltering cove below
 Lurks for the passing peaceful prow,
 Till the gay mariner's guitar
 Is heard, and seen the evening star ;
 Then stealing with the muffled oar,
 Far shaded by the rocky shore

Rush the night-prowlers on the prey,
 And turn to groans his roundelay.
 Strange—that where Nature loved to
 trace,
 As if for Gods, a dwelling-place,
 And every charm and grace hath mixed
 Within the paradise she fixed,
 There man, enamoured of distress,
 Should mar it into wilderness,
 And trample, brute-like, o'er each flower
 That tasks not one laborious hour ;
 Nor claims the culture of his hand
 To bloom along the fairy land,
 But springs as to preclude his care,
 And sweetly woos him—but to spare !
 Strange—that where all is peace beside,
 There passion riots in her pride,
 And lust and rapine wildly reign
 To darken o'er the fair domain.
 It is as though the fiends prevailed
 Against the seraphs they assailed,
 And, fixed on heavenly thrones, should
 dwell

The freed inheritors of hell ;
 So soft the scene, so formed for joy,
 So curst the tyrants that destroy !

ANCIENT AND MODERN GREECE.

HE who hath bent him o'er the dead
 Ere the first day of death is fled,
 The first dark day of nothingness,
 The last of danger and distress,
 (Before Decay's effacing fingers
 Have swept the lines where beauty
 lingers),
 And marked the mild angelic air,
 The rapture of repose that's there,
 The fixed yet tender traits that streak
 The languor of the placid cheek,
 And—but for that sad shrouded eye,
 That fires not, wins not, weeps not
 now,
 And but for that chill changeless
 brow,
 Where cold Obstruction's apathy
 Appals the gazing mourner's heart,
 As if to him it could impart
 The doom he dreads, yet dwells upon ;
 Yes, but for these and these alone,

Some moments, ay, one treacherous
hour,
He still might doubt the tyrant's
power ;

So fair, so calm, so softly sealed,
The first, last look by death revealed !
Such is the aspect of this shore ;
'Tis Greece, but living Greece no
more !

So coldly sweet, so deadly fair,
We start, for soul is wanting there.
Hers is the loveliness of death,
That parts not quite with parting
breath ;

But beauty with that fearful bloom,
That hue which haunts it to the tomb,
Expression's last receding ray,
A gilded halo hovering round decay,
The farewell beam of Feeling past
away !

Spark of that flame, perchance of
heavenly birth,
Which gleams, but warms no more its
cherished earth !

Climb of the unforgotten brave !
Whose land from plain to mountain-
cave

War freedom's home, or Glory's grave !
Shrine of the mighty ! can it be
That this is all remains of thee ?
Approach, thou craven crouching
slave :

Say, is not this Thermopylæ ?
These waters blue that round you lave,
Oh servile offspring of the free—
Pronounce what sea, what shore is
this ?

The gulf, the rock of Salamis !
These scenes, their story not unknown,
Arise, and make again your own ;
Snatch from the ashes of your sires
The embers of the former fires ;
And he who in the strife expires
Will add to theirs a name of fear
That Tyranny shall quake to hear,
And leave his sons a hope, a fame,
They too will rather die than shame :
For Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed by bleeding Sire to Son,
Though baffled oft is ever won.
Bear witness, Greece, thy living page,
Attest it many a deathless age !

While kings, in dusty darkness hid,
Have left a nameless pyramid,
Thy heroes, though the general doom
Hath swept the column from their
tomb,
A mightier monument command,
The mountains of their native land !
There points thy muse to stranger's
eye
The graves of those that cannot die !

THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY.

As rising on its purple wing
The insect-queen of eastern spring,
O'er emerald meadows of Kashmir
Invites the young pursuer near,
And leads him on from flower to flower,
A weary chase and wasted hour,
Then leaves him, as it soars on high,
With panting heart and tearful eye :
So Beauty lures the full-grown child,
With hue as bright, and wing as
wild ;

A chase of idle hopes and fears,
Begun in folly, closed in tears.
If won, to equal ills betrayed,
Woe waits the insect and the maid ;
A life of pain, the loss of peace,
From infant's play and man's caprice ;
The lovely toy so fiercely sought,
Hath lost its charm by being caught,
For every touch that wooed its stay
Hath brushed its brightest hues away,
Till charm, and hue, and beauty
gone,

'Tis left to fly or fall alone.
With wounded wing or bleeding breast,
Ah ! where shall either victim rest ?
Can this with faded pinion soar
From rose to tulip as before ?
Or Beauty, blighted in an hour,
Find joy within her broken bower ?
No : gayer insects fluttering by
Ne'er droop the wing o'er those that
die,

And lovelier things have mercy shown
To every failing but their own,
And every woe a tear can claim,
Except an erring sister's shame.

REMORSE.

THE mind that broods o'er guilty woes
Is like the Scorpion girt by fire,
In circle narrowing as it glows,
The flames around their captive close,
Till inly searched by thousand throes,
And maddening in her ire,
One sad and sole relief she knows,
The sting she nourished for her foes,
Whose venom never yet was vain,
Gives but one pang, and cures all pain,
And darts into her desperate brain :
So do the dark in soul expire,
Or live like Scorpion girt by fire ;
So writhes the mind Remorse hath riven,
Unfit for earth, undoomed for heaven,
Around it flame, within it death !

LOVE.

YES, Love indeed is light from heaven ;
A spark of that immortal fire
With angels shared, by Alla given,
To lift from earth our low desire.
Devotion wafts the mind above,
But heaven itself descends in love ;
A feeling from the Godhead caught,
To wean from self each sordid thought ;
A Ray of Him who formed the whole ;
A glory circling round the soul !

KNOW YE THE LAND.

The Bride of Abydos.

KNOW ye the land where the cypress and
myrtle
Are emblems of deeds that are ~~done in~~
their clime,
Where the rage of the vulture, the love
of the turtle,
Now melt into sorrow, now madden
to crime ?
Know ye the land of the cedar and vine,
Where the flowers ever blossom, the
beams ever shine ;
Where the light wings of Zephyr, op-
pressed with perfume,
Wax faint o'er the gardens of Gál in her
bloom ?

Where the citron and olive are fairest of
fruit,
And the voice of the nightingale never is
mute,
Where the tints of the earth, and the
hues of the sky,
In colour though varied, in beauty may
vie,
And the purple of Ocean is deepest in
dye ;
Where the virgins are soft as the roses
they twine,
And all, save the spirit of man, is divine ?
'Tis the clime of the East ; 'tis the land
of the Sun—
Can he smile on such deeds as his chil-
dren have done ?
Oh ! wild as the accents of lovers' fare-
well
Are the hearts which they bear, and the
tales which they tell.

ZULEIKA.

FAIR, as the first that fell of woman-
kind,
When on that dread yet lovely serpent
smiling,
Whose image then was stamped upon her
mind—
But once beguiled—and ever more be-
guiling ;
Dazzling, as that, oh ! too transcendent
vision
To Sorrow's phantom-peopled slumber
given,
When heart meets heart again in dreams
Elysian,
And paints the lost on Earth revived in
Heaven ;
Soft, as the memory of buried love ;
Pure, as the prayer which Childhood
wafts above ;
Was she—the daughter of that rude old
Chief,
Who met the maid with tears—but not
of grief.
Who hath not proved how feebly words
essay
To fix one spark of Beauty's heavenly ray ?

Who doth not feel, until his failing
sight
Faints into dimness with its own delight,
His changing cheek, his sinking heart
confess
The might—the majesty of Loveliness?
Such was Zuleika—such around her
shone
The nameless charms unmarked by her
alone;
The light of love, the purity of grace,
The mind, the Music breathing from her
face,
The heart whose softness harmonised the
whole—
And oh! that eye was in itself a Soul!

THE HELLESPONT.

THE winds are high on Helle's wave,
As on that night of stormy water,
When Love, who sent, forgot to save
The young, the beautiful, the brave,
The lonely hope of Sestos' daughter.
Oh! when alone along the sky
Her turret-torch was blazing high,
Though rising gale, and breaking foam,
And shrieking sea-birds warned him
home;
And clouds aloft and tides below,
With signs and sounds, forbade to go,
He could not see, he would not hear,
Or sound or sign foreboding fear;
His eye but saw the light of love,
The only star it hailed above;
His ear but rang with Hero's song,
"Ye waves, divide not lovers long!"
That tale is old, but love anew
May nerve young hearts to prove as
true.

The winds are high, and Helle's tide
Rolls darkly heaving to the main;
And Night's descending shadows hide
That field with blood bedewed in
vain,
The desert of old Priam's pride;
The tombs, sole relics of his reign,
All—save immortal dreams that could be-
guile
The blind old man of Scio's rocky
isle!

Oh! yet—for there my steps have been;
These feet have pressed the sacred
shore,
These limbs that buoyant wave hath
borne—
Minstrel! with thee to muse, to mourn,
To trace again those fields of yore,
Believing every hillock green
Contains no fabled hero's ashes,
And that around the undoubted scene
Thine own "broad Hellespont" still
dashes,
Be long my lot, and cold were he
Who there could gaze, denying thee!

THE DEATH OF ZULEIKA.

By Helle's stream there is a voice of
wail!
And woman's eye is wet—man's cheek is
pale:
Zuleika! last of Giaffir's race,
Thy destined lord is come too late:
He sees not—ne'er shall see—thy face!
Can he not hear
The loud Wul-wulleh warn his distant
ear?
Thy handmaids weeping at the gate,
The Koran-chanters of the hymn of
fate,
The silent slaves with folded arms that
wait,
Sighs in the hall, and shrieks upon the
gale,
Tell him thy tale!
Thou didst not view thy Selim fall!
That fearful moment when he left the
cave
Thy heart grew chill:
He was thy hope—thy joy—thy love—
thine all—
And that last thought on him thou
couldst not save
Sufficed to kill;
Burst forth in one wild cry—and all was
still.
Peace to thy broken heart, and virgin
grave!
Ah! happy! but of life to lose the worst!
That grief—though deep—though fatal—
was thy first!

Thrice happy ! ne'er to feel nor fear the
force

Of absence, shame, pride, hate, revenge,
remorse !

And, oh ! that pang where more than
madness lies !

The worm that will not sleep—and never
dies ;

Thought of the gloomy day and ghastly
night,

That dreads the darkness, and yet loathes
the light,

That winds around, and tears the quiver-
ing heart !

Ah ! wherefore not consume it—and de-
part !

Woe to thee, rash and unrelenting chief !
Vainly thou heap'st the dust upon thy
head,

Vainly the sackcloth o'er thy limbs doth
spread ;

By that same hand Abdallah—Selim—
bled.

Now let it tear thy beard in idle grief :
Thy pride of heart, thy bride for Osman's
bed,

She, whom thy sultan had but seen to
Thy Daughter's dead !

Hope of thine age, thy twilight's lonely
beam,

The Star hath set that shone on Helle's
stream.

What quenched its ray ?—the blood that
thou hast shed !

Hark ! to the hurried question of Despair :
“Where is my child ?”—an Echo answers
—“Where ?”

ZULEIKA'S GRAVE.

WITHIN the place of thousand tombs
That shine beneath, while dark above,
The sad but living cypress glooms,
And withers not, though branch and
leaf

Are stamped with an eternal grief,
Like early unrequited Love,

One spot exists, which ever blooms,
Even in that deadly grove—

A single rose is shedding there
Its lonely lustre, meek and pale :

It looks as planted by Despair—

So white—so faint—the slightest gale
Might whirl the leaves on high ;

And yet, though storms and blight
assail,

And hands more rude than wintry sky
May wring it from the stem—in vain—

To-morrow sees it bloom again !

The stalk some spirit gently rears,
And waters with celestial tears ;

For well may maids of Helle deem

That this can be no earthly flower,
Which mocks the tempest's withering

hour,

And buds unsheltered by a bower ;

Nor droops, though spring refuse her
shower,

Nor woos the summer beam :

To it the livelong night there sings

A bird unseen—but not remote ;

Invisible his airy wings,

But soft as harp that Houri strings,

His long entrancing note !

It were the Bulbul ; but his throat,

Though mournful, pours not such a
strain :

For they who listen cannot leave

The spot, but linger there and grieve,

As if they loved in vain !

And yet so sweet the tears they shed,

'Tis sorrow so unmix'd with dread,

They scarce can bear the morn to break

That melancholy spell,

And longer yet would weep and wake,

He sings so wild and well !

But when the day-blush bursts from high,

Expires that magic melody.

And some have been who could believe

(So fondly youthful dreams deceive,

Yet harsh be they that blame)

That note so piercing and profound,

Will shape and syllable its sound

Into Zuleika's name.

'Tis from her cypress' summit heard,

That melts in air the liquid word ;

'Tis from her lowly virgin earth

That white rose takes its tender birth.

There late was laid a marble stone ;

Eve saw it placed—the Morrow gone !

It was no mortal arm that bore

That deep-fixed pillar to the shore ;

For there, as Helle's legends tell,

Next morn 'twas found where Selim
fell ;

Lashed by the tumbling tide, whose wave
Denied his bones a holier grave :

And there by night, reclined, 'tis said,
Is seen a ghastly turbaned head :

And hence extended by the billow,

'Tis named the "Pirate-phantom's
pillow!" [flower

Where first it lay, that mourning

Hath flourished ; flourisheth this hour,

Alone and dewy, coldly pure and pale ;

As weeping Beauty's cheek at Sorrow's tale !

MIDNIGHT IN THE EAST.

The Siege of Corinth.

'Tis midnight : on the mountains brown
The cold round moon shines deeply
down ;

Blue roll the waters, blue the sky

Spreads like an ocean hung on high,

Bespangled with those isles of light,

So wildly, spiritually bright ;

Who ever gazed upon them shining,

And turned to earth without repining,

No. wished for wings to flee away,

And mix with their eternal ray ?

The waves on either shore lay there,

Calm, clear, and azure as the air :

And scarce their foam the pebbles shook,

But murmured meekly as the brook.

The winds were pillowed on the waves ;

The banners drooped along their staves,

And, as they fell around them furling,

Above them shone the crescent curling ;

And that deep silence was unbroke,

Save where the watch his signal spoke,

Save where the steed neighed oft and shrill

And echo answered from the hill,

And the wide hum of that wild host

Rustled like leaves from coast to coast,

As rose the Muezzin's voice in air

In midnight call to wonted prayer :

It rose, that chanted mournful strain,

Like some lone spirit's o'er the plain ;

'Twas musical, but sadly sweet,

Such as when winds and harp-strings
meet,

And take a long unmeasured tone,

To mortal minstrelsy unknown.

It seemed to those within the wall

A cry prophetic of their fall :

It struck even the besieger's ear
With something ominous and drear,

An undefined and sudden thrill,

Which makes the heart a moment still,

Then beat with quicker pulse, ashamed

Of that strange sense its silence framed ;

Such as a sudden passing-bell

Wakes, though but for a stranger's knell

THE VISION OF ALP THE RENEGADE.

He sate him down at a pillar's base,

And passed his hand athwart his face ;

Like one in dreary musing mood,

Declining was his attitude ;

His head was drooping on his breast,

Fevered, throbbing, and oppressed ;

And o'er his brow, so downward bent,

Oft his beating fingers went,

Hurriedly, as you may see

Your own run over the ivory key,

Ere the measured tone is taken

By the chords you would awaken.

There he sate all heavily,

As he heard the night-wind sigh.

Was it the wind, through some hollow
stone,

Sent that soft and tender moan ?

He lifted his head, and he looked on the
sea,

But it was unrippled as glass may be ;

He looked on the long grass—it waved
not a blade ;

How was that gentle sound conveyed ?

He looked to the banners—each flag lay
still,

So did the leaves on Cithæron's hill,

And he felt not a breath come over his
cheek ;

What did that sudden sound bespeak ?

He turned to the left—is he sure of sight ?

There sate a lady, youthful and bright !

He started up with more of fear

Than if an armed foe were near.

"God of my fathers ! what is here ?

Who art thou, and wherefore sent

So near a hostile armament ?"

His trembling hands refused to sign

The cross he deemed no more divine ;

He had resumed it in that hour,
But conscience wrung away the power.
He gazed—he saw : he knew the face
Of beauty, and the form of grace ;
It was Francesca by his side,
The maid who might have been his
bride !

The rose was yet upon her cheek,
But mellowed with a tenderer streak :
Where was the play of her soft lips fled ?
Gone was the smile that enlivened their
red.

The ocean's calm within their view,
Beside her eye had less of blue ;
But like that cold wave it stood still,
And its glance, though clear, was chi'ly
Around her form a thin robe twining,
Nought concealed her bosom shining ;
Through the parting of her hair,
Floating darkly downward there,
Her rounded arm showed white and bare :
And ere yet she made reply,
Once she raised her hand on high ;
It was so wan, and transparent of hue,
You might have seen the moon shine
through.

"I come from my rest to him I love best,
That I may be happy, and he may be
blest.

I have passed the guards, the gate, the
wall ;
Sought thee in safety through foes and
all.

'Tis said the lion will turn and flee
From a maid in the pride of her purity
And the Power on high, that can shield
the good

Thus from the tyrant of the wood,
Hath extended its mercy to guard me as
well

From the hands of the leaguering infidel.
I come—and if I come in vain,
Never, oh never, we meet again !
Thou hast done a fearful deed
In falling away from thy father's creed :
But dash that turban to earth, and sign
The sign of the cross, and for ever be
mine :

Wring the black drop from thy heart,
And to-morrow unites us no more to
part."

"And where should our bridal couch be
spread ?

In the midst of the dying and the dead ?
For to-morrow we give to the slaughter
and flame

The sons and the shrines of the Christian
name.

None, save thou and thine, I've sworn,
Shall be left upon the morn :
But thee will I bear to a lovely spot,
Where our hands shall be joined, and our
sorrow forgot.

There thou yet shalt be my bride,
When once again I've quelled the pride
Of Venice ; and her hated race
Have felt the arm they would debase,
Scourge, with a whip of scorpions, those
Whom vice and envy made my foes."

Upon his hand she laid her own—
Light was the touch, but it thrilled to the
bone,

And shot a chillness to his heart,
Which fixed him beyond the power to
start. [cold,

Though slight was that grasp so mortal
He could not loose him from its hold ;
But never did clasp of one so dear
Strike on the pulse with such feeling o
fear,

As those thin fingers, long and white,
Froze through his blood by their touch
that night.

The feverish glow of his brow was gone,
And his heart sank so still that it felt like
stone,

As he looked on the face, and beheld its
hue,

So deeply changed from what he knew :
Fair but faint—without the ray
Of mind, that made each feature play
Like sparkling waves on a sunny day ;
And her motionless lips lay still as death,
And her words came forth without her
breath,

And there rose not a heave o'er her
bosom's swell.

And there seemed not a pulse in her veins
to dwell.

Though her eye shone out, yet the lids
were fixed,

And the glance that it gave was wild and
unmixed

With aught of change, as the eyes may
seem

Of the restless who walk in a troubled
dream ;

Like the figures on arras, that gloomily
glare,

Stirred by the breath of the wintry air,
So seen by the dying lamp's fitful light,
Lifeless, but life-like, and awful to sight ;
As they seem, through the dimness, about
to come down

From the shadowy wall where their
images frown ;

Fearfully flitting to and fro,
As the gusts on the tapestry come and go.

" If not for love of me be given
Thus much, then, for the love of heaven,—
Again I say—that turban tear
From off thy faithless brow, and swear
Thine injured country's sons to spare,
Or thou art lost ; and never shalt see—
Not earth—that's past—but heaven or
me.

If this thou dost accord, albeit
A heavy doom 'tis thine to meet,
That doom shall half absolve thy sin,
And mercy's gate may receive thee
within :

But pause one moment more, and take
The curse of Him thou didst forsake ;
And look once more to heaven, and see
Its love for ever shut from thee.
There is a light cloud by the moon—
'Tis passing, and will pass full soon—
If, by the time its vapoury sail
Hath ceased her shaded orb to veil,
Thy heart within thee is not changed,
Then God and man are both avenged ;
Dark will thy doom be, darker still
Thine immortality of ill."

Alp looked to heaven, and saw on high
The sign she spake of in the sky ;
But his heart was swollen, and turned
aside,

By deep interminable pride.
This first false passion of his breast
Rolled like a torrent o'er the rest.
He sue for mercy ! *He* dismayed
By wild words of a timid maid !
He, wronged by Venice, vow to save
devoted to the grave !

No—though that cloud were thunder's
worst,

And charged to crush him—let it burst !

He looked upon it earnestly,
Without an accent of reply ;
He watched it passing ; it is flown :
Full on his eye the clear moon shone,
And thus he spake :—" Whate'er my
fate,

I am no changeling—'tis too late :
The reed in storms may bow and quiver,
Then rise again ; the tree mast shiver.
What Venice made me, I must be,
Her foe in all, save love to thee :
But thou art safe : oh, fly with me !"

He turned, but she is gone !
Nothing is there but the column stone.
Hath she sunk in the earth, or melted in
air ?

He saw not—he knew not ; but nothing
is there.

TWILIGHT.

Parisina.

It is the hour when from the boughs
The nightingale's high note is heard ;
It is the hour when lovers' vows
Seem sweet in every whispered word ;
And gentle winds, and waters near,
Make music to the lonely ear.
Each flower the dews have lightly wet,
And in the sky the stars are met,
And on the wave is deeper blue,
And on the leaf a browner hue,
And in the heaven that clear obscure,
So softly dark, and darkly pure,
Which follows the decline of day,
As twilight melts beneath the moon away

MANFRED'S SOLILOQUY ON THE JUNGFAU.

Manfred.

THE spirits I have raised abandon me—
The spells which I have studied baffl
me—
The remedy I recked of tortured me ;
I lean no more on superhuman aid,
o*

It hath no power upon the past, and for
 The future, till the past be gulfed in
 darkness,
 It is not of my search.—My mother
 Earth !
 And thou, fresh breaking Day, and you,
 ye Mountains,
 Why are ye beautiful ? I cannot love ye.
 And thou, the bright eye of the universe,
 That openest over all, and unto all
 Art a delight—thou shin'st not on my
 heart.
 And you, ye crags, upon whose extreme
 edge
 I stand, and on the torrent's brink beneath
 Behold the tall pines dwindled as to
 shrubs
 In dizziness of distance ; when a leap,
 A stir, a motion, even a breath, would
 bring
 My breast upon its rocky bosom's bed
 To rest for ever—wherefore do I pause ?
 I feel the impulse—yet I do not plunge ;
 I see the peril—yet do not recede ;
 And my brain reels—and yet my foot is
 firm :
 There is a power upon me which with-
 holds,
 And makes it my fatality to live ;
 If it be life to wear within myself
 This barrenness of spirit, and to be
 My own soul's sepulchre, for I have
 ceased
 To justify my deeds unto myself—
 The last infirmity of evil. Ay,
 Thou winged and cloud-cleaving minister,
 [An eagle passes.
 Whose happy flight is highest into heaven,
 Well may'st thou swoop so near me—I
 should be
 Thy prey, and gorge thine eaglets ; thou
 art gone
 Where the eye cannot follow thee ; but
 thine
 Yet pierces downward, onward, or above,
 With a pervading vision.—Beautiful !
 How beautiful is all this visible world !
 How glorious in its action and itself !
 But we, who name ourselves its sovereigns,
 we,
 Half dust, half deity, alike unfit
 To sink or soar, with our mixed essence,
 make

A conflict of its elements, and breathe
 The breath of degradation and of pride,
 Contending with low wants and lofty
 will,
 Till our mortality predominates,
 And men are—what they name not to
 themselves,
 And trust not to each other. Hark ! the
 note,

[The shepherd's pipe in the
 distance is heard.

The natural music of the mountain reed—
 For here the patriarchal days are not
 A pastoral fable—pipes in the liberal air,
 Mixed with the sweet bells of the saunter-
 ing herd ;
 My soul would drink those echoes.—Oh,
 that I were
 The viewless spirit of a lovely sound,
 A living voice, a breathing harmony,
 A bodiless enjoyment—born and dying
 With the blest tone which made me !

Enter from below a Chamois Hunter.

Chamois Hunter. Even so
 This way the chamois leapt : her nimble
 feet
 Have baffled me ; my gains to-day will
 scarce
 Repay my break-neck travail.—What is
 here ?
 Who seems not of my trade, and yet hath
 reached
 A height which none even of our moun-
 taineers,
 Save our best hunters, may attain : his
 garb
 Is goodly, his mien manly, and his air
 Proud as a freeborn peasant's, at this
 distance—
 I will approach him nearer.

Man. (not perceiving the other.) To be
 thus—
 Grey-haired with anguish, like these
 blasted pines,
 Wrecks of a single winter, barkless,
 branchless,
 A blighted trunk upon a cursed root,
 Which but supplies a feeling to decay—
 And to be thus, eternally but thus,
 Having been otherwise ! Now furrowed
 o'er

With wrinkles, ploughed by moments,
not by years,—

And hours, all tortured into ages—hours
Which I outlive!—Ye toppling crags of
ice!

Ye avalanches, whom a breath draws
down

In mountainous o'erwhelming, come and
crush me!

I hear ye momentarily above, beneath,
Crash with a frequent conflict; but ye
pass,

And only fall on things that still would
live;

On the young flourishing forest, or the
hut

And hamlet of the harmless villager.

C. Hun. The mists begin to rise from
up the valley;

I'll warn him to descend, or he may
chance

To lose at once his way and life together.

Man. The mists boil up around the
glaciers: clouds

Rise curling fast beneath me, white and
sulphury,

Lik' foam from the roused ocean of deep
Hell,

Whose every wave breaks on a living
shore,

Heaped with the damned like pebbles.—
I am giddy.

C. Hun. I must approach him cau-
tiously; if near,

A sudden step will startle him, and he
seems tottering already.

Man. Mountains have fallen,
Leaving a gap in the clouds, and with the
shock

Rocking their Alpine brethren; filling up
The ripe green valleys with destruction's
splinters;

Damming the rivers with a sudden dash,
Which crushed the waters into mist, and
made

Their fountains find another channel—
Thus,

Thus, in its old age, did Mount Rosen-
berg—

Why stood I not beneath it?

C. Hun. Friend! have a care,

Your next step may be fatal!—for the
love

Of Him who made you, stand not on that
brink!

Man. (not hearing him.) Such would
have been for me a fitting tomb;

My bones had then been quiet in their
depth:

They had not then been strewn upon the
rocks

For the wind's pastime—as thus—thus
they shall be—

In this one plunge.—Farewell, ye opening
heavens!

Look not upon me thus reproachfully—

You were not meant for me.—Earth!
take these atoms!

[*As Manfred is in act to spring from
the cliff, the Chamois Hunter
seizes and retains him with a
sudden grasp.*]

C. Hun. Hold, madman!—though
aware of thy life,

Stain not our pure vales with thy guilty
blood:

Away with me—I will not quit my
hold.

Man. I am most sick at heart—nay,
grasp me not—

I am all feebleness—the mountains whirl
Spinning around me—I grow blind—
What art thou?

C. Hun. I'll answer that anon.—Away
with me—

The clouds grow thicker—there—now
lean on me—

Place your foot here—here, take this staff,
and cling

A moment to that shrub—now give me
your hand,

And hold fast by my girdle—softly—
well— [hour:

The Chalet will be gained within an
Come on, we'll quickly find a surer

footing,
And something like a pathway, which the
torrent

Hath washed since winter.—Come, 'tis
bravely done—

You should have been a hunter.—F
me.

MANFRED, AFTER HIS INTER-
VIEW WITH THE WITCH OF
THE ALPS.

WE are the fools of time and terror : days
Steal on us and steal from us ; yet we
live,
Loathing our life, and dreading still to
die.

In all the days of this detested yoke—
This vital weight upon the struggling
heart

Which sinks with sorrow, or beats quick
with pain,

Or joy that ends in agony or faintness—
In all the days of past and future, for
In life there is no present, we can number
How few—how less than few—wherein
the soul

Forbears to pant for death, and yet draws
back

As from a stream in winter, though the
chill

Be but a moment's. I have one resource
Still in my science—I can call the dead,
And ask them what it is we dread to be :
The sternest answer can but be the Grave,
And that is nothing. If they answer not—
The buried Prophet answered to the Hag
Of Endor ; and the Spartan Monarch
drew

From the Byzantine maid's unsleeping
spirit

An answer and his destiny—he slew
That which he loved, unknowing what he
slew,

And died unpardoned—though he called
in aid

The Phyxian Jove, and in Phigalia roused
The Arcadian Evocators to compel

The indignant shadow to depose her
wrath,

Or fixed her term of vengeance—she
replied

In words of dubious import, but fulfilled.
If I had never lived, that which I love
Had still been living : had I never loved,
That which I love would still be beau-
tiful—

Happy and giving happiness. What is
she ?

What is she now?—a sufferer for my
sins—

A thing I dare not think upon—or no-
thing.

Within few hours I shall not call in
vain—

Yet in this hour I dread the thing I dare :
Until this hour I never shrunk to gaze
On spirit, good or evil—now I tremble,
And feel a strange cold thaw upon my
heart.

But I can act even what I most abhor,
And champion human fears. The night
approaches.

MANFRED'S MIDNIGHT
THOUGHTS.

THE stars are forth, the moon above the
tops

Of the snow-shining mountains.—Beau-
tiful !

I linger yet with Nature, for the night
Hath been to me a more familiar face
Than that of man ; and in her starry shade
Of dim and solitary loveliness,
I learned the language of another world.
I do remember me, that in my youth,
When I was wandering,—upon such a
night

I stood within the Coliseum's wall,
'Midst the chief relics of almighty Rome ;
The trees which grew along the broken
arches

Waved dark in the blue midnight, and the
stars

Shone through the rents of ruin ; from
afar

The watch-dog bayed beyond the Tiber ;
and

More near from out the Cæsars' palace
came

The owl's long cry, and, interruptedly,
Of distant sentinels the fitful song
Begun and died upon the gentle wind.

Some cypresses beyond the time-worn
breach

Appeared to skirt the horizon, yet they
stood

Within a bowshot. Where the Cæsars
dwelt,

And dwell the tuneless birds of night,
amidst

A grove which springs through levelled
battlements,
And twines its roots with the imperial
hearts,
Ivy usurps the laurel's place of growth ;—
But the gladiators' bloody Circus stands,
A noble wreck in ruinous perfection !
While Cæsar's chambers, and the Au-
gustan halls,
Grove on earth in indistinct decay.—
And thou didst shine, thou rolling moon,
upon
All this, and cast a wide and tender light,
Which softened down the hoar austerity
Of rugged desolation, and filled up,
As 'twere anew, the gaps of centuries ;
Leaving that beautiful which still was so,
And making that which was not, till the
place
Became religion, and the heart ran o'er
With silent worship of the great of old !—
The dead, but sceptred sovereigns, who
still rule
Our spirits from their urns.—
'Twas such a night !
'Tis strange that I recall it at this time ;
But I have found our thoughts take wildest
flight [array
Even at the moment when they should
Themselves in pensive order.

MY NATIVE LAND—GOOD
NIGHT.

Childe Harold.

“ADIEU, adieu! my native shore
Fades o'er the waters blue;
The night-winds sigh, the breakers roar,
And shrieks the wild sea-mew.
Yon sun that sets upon the sea
We follow in his flight:
Farewell awhile to him and thee,
My native Land—Good Night!

“A few short hours, and he will rise
To give the morrow birth;
And I shall hail the main and skies,
But not my mother earth.
Deserted is my own good hall,
Its hearth is desolate;
Wild weeds are gathering on the wall.
My dog howls at the gate.

“Come hither, hither, my little page,
Why dost thou weep and wail?
Or dost thou dread the billow's rage,
Or tremble at the gale?
But dash the tear-drop from thine eye ;
Our ship is swift and strong :
Our fleetest falcon scarce can fly
More merrily along.”

“Let winds be shrill, let waves roll high,
I fear not wave nor wind:
Yet marvel not, Sir Childe, that I
Am sorrowful in mind;
For I have from my father gone,
A mother whom I love,
And have no friend, save these alone,
But thee—and One above.

“My father blessed me fervently,
Yet did not much complain ;
But sorely will my mother sigh
Till I come back again.”—
“Enough, enough, my little lad !
Such tears become thine eye ;
If I thy guileless bosom had,
My own would not be dry.

"Come hither, hither, my stanch yeoman
 Why dost thou look so pale?
 Or dost thou dread a French foeman?
 Or shiver at the gale?"—
 "Deem'st thou I tremble for my life?
 Sir Childe, I'm not so weak;
 But thinking on an absent wife
 Will blanch a faithful cheek.

"My spouse and boys dwell **near** thy
 hall,
 Along the bordering lake,
 And when they on their father call,
 What answer shall she make?"—
 "Enough, enough, my yeoman good,
 Thy grief let none gainsay;
 But I, who am of lighter mood,
 Will laugh to flee away.

“For who would trust the seeming sighs
Of wife or paramour?
Fresh feesles will dry the bright blue eyes
We late saw streaming o’er.
For pleasures past I do not grieve,
Nor perils gathering near;
My greatest grief is that I leave
No thing that claims a tear.

"And now I'm in the world alone,
Upon the wide, wide sea :
But why should I for others groan,
When none will sigh for me?
Perchance my dog will whine in vain,
Till fed by stranger hands ;
But long ere I come back again
He'd tear me where he stands.

"With thee, my bark, I'll swiftly go
Athwart the foaming brine ;
Nor care what land thou bear'st me to,
So not again to mine.
Welcome, welcome, ye dark-blue waves !
And when you fail my sight,
Welcome, ye deserts, and ye caves !
My native Land—Good Night !"

LISBOA AND CINTRA.

WHAT beauties doth Lisboa first unfold !
Her image floating on that noble tide,
Which poets vainly pave with sands of gold,
But now whereon a thousand keels did ride
Of mighty strength, since Albion was allied,
And to the Lusians did her aid afford :
A nation swoln with ignorance and pride,
Who lick yet loathe the hand that waves the sword
To save them from the wrath of Gaul's unsparing lord.

But whoso entereth within this town,
That, sheening far, celestial seems to be,
Disconsolate will wander up and down,
'Mid many things unsightly to strange ee ;
For hut and palace show like filthily :
The dingy denizens are reared in dirt ;
Ne personage of high or mean degree
Doth care for cleanness of surtout or shirt,
Though shent with Egypt's plague, unkempt, unwashed, unhurt.

Poor, paltry slaves ! yet born 'midst noblest scenes—

Why, Nature, waste thy wonders on such men ?

Lo ! Cintra's glorious Eden intervenes
In variegated maze of mount and glen.
Ah me ! what hand can pencil guide, or pen,

To follow half on which the eye dilates
Through views more dazzling unto mortal ken

'Than those whereof such things the bard relates,

Who to the awe-struck world unlocked
Elysium's gates.

The horrid crags, by toppling convent crowned,

The cork-trees hoar that clothe the shaggy steep,

The mountain-moss by scorching skics imbrowned,

The sunken glen, whose sunless shrubs must weep,

The tender azure of the unruffled deep,
The orange tints that gild the greenest bough,

The torrents that from cliff to valley leap, [below,

The vine on high, the willow branch
Mixed in one mighty scene, with varied beauty glow.

Then slowly climb the many-winding way,

And frequent turn to linger as you go,
From loftier rocks new loveliness survey,

And rest ye at "Our Lady's house of woe ;"

Where frugal monks their little relics show,

And sundry legends to the stranger tell :
Here impious men have punished been,

and lo !
Deep in yon cave Honorius long did dwell,

In hope to merit heaven by making earth a hell.

And here and there, as up the crags you spring,

Mark many rude-carved crosses near the path :

Yet deem not these devotion's offering—

These are memorials frail of murderous wrath :

For wheresoe'er the shrieking victim hath

Poured forth his blood beneath the assassin's knife,

Some hand erects a cross of mouldering lath ;

And grove and glen with thousand such are rife

Throughout this purple land, where law secures not life !

THE DEMON OF BATTLE.

HARK ! heard you not those hoofs of dreadful note ?

Sounds not the clang of conflict on the heath ?

Saw ye not whom the reeking ~~salre~~ smote ;

Nor saved your brethren ere they sank beneath

Tyrants and Tyrants' slaves ?—the fires of death,

The bale-fires flash on high :—from rock to rock

Each volley tells that thousands cease to breathe ;

Death rides upon the sulphury Siroc,
Red Battle stamps his foot, and nations feel the shock.

Lo ! where the Giant on the mountain stands,

His blood-red tresses deep'ning in the sun,

With death-shot glowing in his fiery hands,

And eye that scorseth all it glares upon ;

Restless it rolls, now fixed, and now anon

Flashing afar,—and at his iron feet Destruction cowers, to mark what deeds are done ;

For on this morn three potent nations meet,
To shed before his shrine the blood he deems most sweet.

PARNASSUS.

OH, thou Parnassus ! whom I now survey,

Not in the phrensy of a dreamer's eye,
Not in the fabled landscape of a lay,

But soaring snow-clad through thy native sky,

In the wild pomp of mountain majesty !
What marvel if I thus essay to sing ?

The humblest of thy pilgrims passing by

Would gladly woo thine echoes with his string,

Though from thy heights no more one Muse will wave her wing.

OR have I dreamed of thee ! whose glorious name

Who knows not, knows not man's divinest lore ;

And now I view thee, 'tis, alas ! with shame

That I in feeblest accents must adore.
When I recount thy worshippers of yore,

I tremble, and can only bend the knee ;
Nor raise my voice, nor vainly dare to soar,

But gaze beneath thy cloudy canopy
In silent joy to think at last I look on thee !

Happier in this than mightiest bards have been,

Whose fate to distant homes confined their lot,

Shall I unmoved behold the hallowed scene,

Which others rave of, though they know it not ?

Though here no more Apollo haunts his grot,

And thou, the Muses' seat, art now their grave,

Some gentle spirit still pervades the spot,
Sighs in the gale, keeps silence in the cave,

And glides with glassy foot o'er yon melodious wave.

THE BULL-FIGHT.

THE lists are oped, the spacious area
 cleared,
 Thousands on thousands piled are
 seated round;
 Long ere the first loud trumpet's note
 is heard,
 Ne vacant space for lated wight is
 found:
 Here dons, grandees, but chiefly dames
 abound,
 Skilled in the ogle of a roguish eye,
 Yet ever well inclined to heal the
 wound;
 None through their cold disdain are
 doomed to die,
 As moon-struck bards complain, by Love's
 sad archery.

Hushed is the din of tongues—on gal-
 lant steeds,
 With milk-white crest, gold spur, and
 light-poised lance,
 Four cavaliers prepare for venturous
 deeds,
 And lowly bending to the lists advance;
 Rich are their scarfs, their chargers
 fealty prance:
 If in the dangerous game they shine to-
 The crowd's loud shout and ladies'
 lovely glance,
 Best prize of better acts, they bear
 away,
 And all that kings or chiefs e'er gain their
 toils repay.

In costly sheen and gaudy cloak ar-
 rayed,
 But all afoot, the light-limbed Mata-
 Stands in the centre, eager to invade
 The lord of lowing herds; but not
 before
 The ground, with cautious tread, is
 traversed o'er,
 Lest aught unseen should lurk to thwart
 his speed:
 His arms a dart, he fights aloof, nor
 more
 Can man achieve without the friendly
 steed—
 Alas! too oft condemned for him to bear
 and bleed.

Thrice sounds the clarion; lo! the
 signal falls,
 The den expands, and Expectation
 mute
 Gapes round the silent circle's peopled
 walls.
 Bounds with one lashing spring the
 mighty brute,
 And, wildly staring, spurns, with sound-
 ing foot,
 The sand, nor blindly rushes on his
 foe:
 Here, there, he points his
 front, to suit
 His first attack, wide waving
 fro
 His angry tail; red rolls his eye's dilated
 glow.

Sudden he stops; his eye is fixed:
 away,
 Away, thou heedless boy! prepare the
 spear:
 Now is thy time to perish, or display
 The skill that yet may check his mad
 career.
 With well-timed croupe the nimble
 coursers veer;
 On foams the bull, but not unscathed
 he goes;
 Streams from his flank the crimson
 torrent clear:
 He flies, he wheels, distracted with his
 Dart follows dart; lance, lance; loud
 bellowings speak his woes.

Again he comes; nor dart nor lance
 avail,
 Nor the wild plunging of the tortured
 Though man and man's avenging arms
 assail,
 Vain are his weapons, vainer is his
 force.
 One gallant steed is stretched a mangled
 corse;
 Another, hideous sight! unseamed ap-
 pears,
 His gory chest unveils life's panting
 source;
 Though death-struck, still his feeble
 frame he rears;
 Staggering, but stemming all, his lord
 unharmed he bears.

Foiled, bleeding, breathless, furious to the last,
Full in the centre stands the bull at bay,
Mid wounds, and clinging darts, and lances brast,
And foes disabled in the brutal fray :
And now the Matadores around him play,
Shake the red cloak, and poise the ready brand :
Once more through all he bursts his thundering way—
Vain rage! the mantle quits the conyng hand,
Wraps his fierce eye—'tis past—he sinks upon the sand !

Where his vast neck just mingles with the spine,
Sheathed in his form the deadly weapon lies.
He stops—he starts—disdaining to decline :
Slowly he falls, amidst triumphant cries,
Without a groan, without a struggle dies.
The decorated car appears—on high
The corse is piled—sweet sight for vulgar eyes—
Four steeds that spurn the rein, as swift as shy,
Hurl the dark bulk along, scarce seen in dashing by.

ATHENS.

ANCIENT of days! august Athena! where,
Where are thy men of might? thy grand in soul?
Gone—glimmering through the dream of things that were :
First in the race that led to Glory's goal,
They won, and passed away—is this the whole?
A schoolboy's tale, the wonder of an hour!
The warrior's weapon and the sophist's stole

Are sought in vain, and o'er each mouldering tower,
Dim with the mist of years, gray flits the shade of power.

Son of the morning, rise! approach you here!
Come—but molest not yon defenceless urn :
Look on this spot—a nation's sepulchre!
Abode of gods, whose shrines no longer burn,
Even gods must yield—religions take their turn :
'Twas Jove's -- 'tis Mahomet's — and other creeds
Will rise with other years, till man shall learn
Vainly his incense soars, his victim bleeds ;
Poor child of Doubt and Death, whose hope is built on reeds.

Bound to the earth, he lifts his eye to heaven—
Is't not enough, unhappy thing! to know
Thou art? Is this a boon so kindly given,
That being, thou wouldst be again, and go,
Thou knowest not, reckest not to what region, so
On earth no more, but mingled with the skies?
Still wilt thou dream on future joy and woe?
Regard and weigh yon dust before it flies :
That little urn saith more than thousand homilies.

REAL AND UNREAL SOLITUDE.

To sit on rocks, to muse o'er flood and fell,
To slowly trace the forest's shady scene,
Where things that own not man's dominion dwell,
And mortal foot hath ne'er or rarely been

To climb the trackless mountain all
unseen,
With the wild flock that never needs a
fold ;
Alone o'er steeps and foaming falls to
lean ;
This is not solitude ; 'tis but to hold
Converse with Nature's charms, and view
her stores unrolled.

But 'midst the crowd, the hum, the
shock of men,
To hear, to see, to feel, and to
possess,
And roam along, the world's tired
denizen,
With none who bless us, none whom
we can bless ;
Minions of splendour shrinking from
distress !
None that, with kindred consciousness
endued,
If we were not, would seem to smile
the less
Of all that flattered, followed, sought,
and sued ;
This is to be alone ; this, this is
solitude !

HOLY GROUND.

WHERE'ER we tread 'tis haunted, holy
ground ;
No earth of thine is lost in vulgar
mould,
But one vast realm of wonder spreads
around,
And all the Muse's tales seem truly
told,
Till the sense aches with gazing to
behold
The scenes our earliest dreams have
dwelt upon :
Each hill and dale, each deepening glen
and wold
Defies the power which crushed thy
temples gone :
Age shakes Athena's tower, but spares
gray Marathon.

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

THERE was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gathered
then
Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and
bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and
brave men ;
A thousand hearts beat happily ; and
when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eyes looked love to eyes which
spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage-
bell .
But hush ! hark ! a deep sound strikes
like a rising knell !

Did ye not hear it ?—No ; 'twas but
the wind,
Or the car rattling o'er the stony
street ;
On with the dance ! let joy be uncon-
fined ;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and
Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing Hours with flying
feet—
But hark !—that heavy sound breaks in
once more,
As if the clouds its echo would repeat ;
And nearer, clearer, deadlier thar
before !
Arm ! arm ! it is—it is—the cannon's
opening roar !

Within a windowed niche of that high
hall
Sate Brunswick's fated chieftain ; he
did hear
That sound the first amidst the fes-
tival,
And caught its tone with Death's pro-
phetic ear ;
And when they smiled because he
deemed it near,
His heart more truly knew that peal too
well
Which stretched his father on a bloody
bier,

And roused the vengeance blood alone
could quell :
He rushed into the field, and, foremost
fighting, fell.

Ah ! then and there was hurrying to
and fro,
And gathering tears, and tremblings of
distress,
And cheeks all pale, which but an
hour ago
Blushed at the praise of their own love-
liness ;
And there were sudden partings, such
as press
The life from out young hearts, and
choking sighs
Which ne'er might be repeated : who
could guess
If ever more should meet those mutual
eyes,
Since upon night so sweet such awful
morn could rise !

And there was mounting in hot haste :
the steed,
The mustering squadron, and the
clattering car,
Went pouring forward with impetuous
speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of
war ;
And the deep thunder peal on peal
afar ;
And near, the beat of the alarming
drum
Roused up the soldier ere the morning
star ;
While thronged the citizens with terror
dumb,
Or whispering, with white lips—"The
foe ! They come ! they come !"

And wild and high the "Cameron's
gathering" rose,
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's
hills
Have heard, and heard, too, have her
Saxon foes :—
How in the noon of night that pibroch
thrills
Savage and shrill ! But with the breath
which fills

Their mountain pipe, so fill the moun-
taineers
With the fierce native daring which
instils
The stirring memory of a thousand
years,
And Evan's, Donald's fame rings in each
clansman's ears !

And Ardennes waves above them her
green leaves,
Dewy with nature's tear-drops, as they
pass,
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave,—alas !
Ere evening to be trodden like the
grass
Which now beneath them, but above
shall grow
In its next verdure, when this fiery
mass
Of living valour, rolling on the foe,
And burning with high hope, shall
moulder cold and low.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly gay,
The midnight brought the signal-sound
of strife,
The morn the marshalling in arms,—
the day
Battle's magnificently-stern array !
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which
when rent
The earth is covered thick with other
clay,
Which her own clay shall cover, heaped
and pent,
Rider and horse,—friend, foe,—in one
red burial blent !

~~~~~ NAPOLEON.

THERE sunk the greafest, nor the
worst of men,
Whose spirit, antithetically mixed,
One moment of the mightiest, and
again
On little objects with like firmness
fixed ;
Extreme in all things ! hadst thou been
betwixt,

'Thy throne had still been thine, or
never been ;
For daring made thy rise as fall : thou
seek'st
Even now to re-assume the imperial
mien,
And shake again the world, the Thunderer
of the scene !

Conqueror and captive of the earth art
thou !
She trembles at thee still, and thy wild
name
Was ne'er more bruited in men's minds
than now
That thou art nothing, save the jest
of Fame,
Who woo'd thee once, thy vassal, and
became
The flatterer of thy fierceness, till thou
wert
A god unto thyself ; nor less the same
To the astounded kingdoms all inert,
Who deemed thee for a time what'er
thou didst assert.

Oh, more or less than man—in high
or low,
Battling with nations, flying from the
field ;
Now making monarchs' necks thy foot-
stool, now
More than thy meanest soldier taught
to yield ;
An empire thou couldst crush, com-
mand, rebuild,
But govern not thy pettiest passion,
nor,
However deeply in men's spirits skilled,
Look through thine own, nor curb the
lust of war,
Nor learn that tempted Fate will leave
the loftiest star.

THE ISOLATION OF GENIUS.

HE who ascends to mountain-tops,
shall find
The loftiest peaks most wrapt in clouds
and snow ;
He who surpasses or subdues mankind,

Must look down on the hate of those
below.
Though high above the sun of glory
glow,
And far beneath the earth and ocean
spread,
Round him are icy rocks, and loudly
blow
Contending tempests on his naked
head,
And thus reward the toils which to those
summits led.

THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

CLEAR, placid Leman ! thy contrasted
lake,
With the wild world I dwelt in, is a
thing
Which warns me, with its stillness, to
forsake
Earth's troubled waters for a purer
spring.
This quiet sail is as a noiseless wing
To waft me from distraction ; once I
loved
Torn ocean's roar, but thy soft mur-
muring
Sounds sweet as if a sister's voice re-
proved,
That I with stern delights should e'er
have been so moved.

It is the hush of night, and all
between
Thy margin and the mountains, dusk,
yet clear,
Mellowed and mingling, yet distinctly
seen,
Save darkened Jura, whose cap heights
appear
Precipitously steep ; and drawing near,
There breathes a living fragrance from
the shore,
Of flowers yet fresh with childhood ; on
the ear
Drops the light drip of the suspended
oar,
Or chirps the 'grasshopper one good-
night carol more :

He is an evening reveller, who makes
 His life an infancy, and sings his fill ;
 At intervals, some bird from out the
 brakes
 Starts into voice a moment, then is
 still. [hill,
 There seems a floating whisper on the
 But that is fancy, for the starlight dews
 All silently their tears of love instil,
 Weeping themselves away, till they
 infuse
 Deep into Nature's breast the spirit of her
 hues.

THE STARS.

YE stars ! which are the poetry of
 heaven !
 If in your bright leaves we would read
 the fate
 Of men and empires,—'tis to be for-
 given,
 That in our aspirations to be great,
 Our destinies o'erleap their mortal
 state,
 And claim a kindred with you ; for ye
 are
 A beauty and a mystery, and create
 In us such love and reverence from
 afar,
 That fortune, fame, power, life, have
 named themselves a star.

THE RHINE.

THE castled crag of Drachenfels
 Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine,
 Whose breast of waters broadly swells
 Between the banks which bear the vine,
 And hills all rich with blossomed trees,
 And fields which promise corn and wine,
 And scattered cities crowning these,
 Whose far white walls along them shine,
 Have strewed a scene, which I should
 see
 With double joy wert thou with me.

And peasant girls, with deep blue eyes,
 And hands which offer early flowers,
 Walk smiling o'er this paradise ;
 Above, the frequent feudal towers

Through green leaves lift their walls of
 gray ;
 And many a rock which steeply lowers,
 And noble arch in proud decay,
 Look o'er this vale of vintage-bowers ;
 But one thing want these banks of
 Rhine,—
 Thy gentle hand to clasp in mine !

I send the lilies given to me ;
 Though long before thy hand they touch,
 I know that they must withered be,
 But yet reject them not as such ;
 For I have cherished them as dear,
 Because they yet may meet thine eye,
 And guide thy soul to mine even here,
 When thou behold'st them drooping
 nigh,
 And know'st them gathered by the
 Rhine,
 And offered from my heart to thine !

The river nobly foams and flows,
 The charm of this enchanted ground,
 And all its thousand turns disclose
 Some fresher beauty varying round :
 The haughtiest breast its wish might
 bound
 Through life to dwell delighted here ;
 Nor could on earth a spot be found
 To nature and to me so dear,
 Could thy dear eyes in following mine
 Still sweeten more these banks of Rhine !

STORM AT NIGHT.

THE sky is changed !—and such a
 change ! Oh night,
 And storm, and darkness, ye are won-
 drous strong, [light
 Yet lovely in your strength, as is the
 Of a dark eye in woman ! Far along,
 From peak to peak, the rattling crags
 among
 Leaps the live thunder ! Not from one
 lone cloud,
 But every mountain now hath found a
 tongue,
 And Jura answers, through her misty
 shroud,
 Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her
 aloud !

And this is in the night :— Most glorious night !
 Thou wert not sent for slumber ! let me be
 A sharer in thy fierce and far delight,—
 A portion of the tempest and of thee !
 How the lit lake shines, a phosphoric sea,
 And the big rain comes dancing to the earth !
 And now again 'tis black,—and now, the glee
 Of the loud hills shakes with its mountain-mirth,
 As if they did rejoice o'er a young earthquake's birth.

Now, where the swift Rhone cleaves his way between
 Heights which appear as lovers who have parted
 In hate, whose mining depths so intervene,
 That they can meet no more, though broken-hearted ;
 Though in their souls, which thus each other thwarted,
 Love was the very root of the fond rage
 Which blighted their life's bloom, and then departed :—
 Itself expired, but leaving them an age
 Of years all winters,—war within themselves to wage.

Now, where the quick Rhone thus hath cleft his way,
 The mightiest of the storms hath ta'en his stand :
 For here, not one, but many, make their play,
 And fling their thunderbolts from hand to hand,
 Flashing and cast around : of all the band,
 The brightest through these parted hills hath forked
 His lightnings,—as if he did understand,
 That in such gaps as desolation worked,
 There the hot shaft should blast whatever therein lurked.

Sky, mountains, river, winds, lake, lightnings ! ye !
 With night, and clouds, and thunder, and a soul
 To make these felt and feeling, well may be
 Things that have made me watchful ; the far roll
 Of your departing voices, is the knoll
 Of what in me is sleepless,—if I rest.
 But where of ye, O tempests ! is the goal ? [breast ?
 Are ye like those within the human
 Or do ye find, at length, like eagles, some high nest ?

Could I embody and unbosom now
 That which is most within me,—could I wreak
 My thoughts upon expression, and thus throw
 Soul, heart, mind, passions, feelings, strong or weak,
 All that I would have sought, and all I seek,
 Bear, know, feel, and yet breathe—into one word,
 And that one word were Lightning, I would speak ;
 But as it is, I live and die unheard,
 With a most voiceless thought, sheathing it as a sword.

CLARENS.

CLARENS ! sweet Clarens ! birthplace of deep Love !
 Thine air is the young breath of passionate thought ;
 Thy trees take root in Love ; the snows above
 The very glaciers have his colours caught,
 And sunset into rose-hues sees them wrought [rocks,
 By rays which sleep there lovingly : the
 The permanent crags, tell here of Love,
 who sought
 In them a refuge from the worldly shocks,
 Which stir and sting the soul with hope that woos, then mocks.

Clarens! by heavenly feet thy paths
are trod,—
Undying Love's who here ascends a
throne
To which the steps are mountains;
where the god
Is a pervading life and light,—so shown
Not on those summits solely, nor alone
In the still cave and forest; o'er the
flower
His eye is sparkling, and his breath
hath blown
His soft and summer breath, whose
tender power
Passes the strength of storms in their
most desolate hour.

All things are here of him; from the
black pines,
Which are his shade on high, and the
loud roar
Of torrents, where he listeneth, to the
vines
Which slope his green path downward
to the shore,
Where the bowed waters meet him,
and adore,
Kissing his feet with murmurs; and
the wood,
The covert of old trees, with trunks all
hoar,
But light leaves, young as joy, stands
where it stood,
Offering to him, and his, a populous soli-
tude.

A populous solitude of bees and birds,
And fairy-formed and many-coloured
things,
Who worship him with notes more
sweet than words,
And innocently open their glad wings
Fearless and full of life; the gush of
springs,
And fall of lofty fountains, and the
bend
Of stirring branches, and the bud which
rings,
The swiftest thought of beauty, here
extend,
Mingling, and made by Love, unto one
mighty end.

He who hath loved not, here would
learn that lore,
And make his heart a spirit; he who
knows
That tender mystery, will love the
more;
For this is Love's recess, where vain
men's woes,
And the world's waste, have driven
him far from those,
For 'tis his nature to advance or die:
He stands not still, but or decays, or
grows
Into a boundless blessing, which may
vie
With the immortal lights, in its eternity!

'Twas not for fiction chose Rousseau
this spot,
Peopling it with affections; but he
found
It was the scene which passion must
alot
To the mind's purified beings; 'twas
the ground
Where early Love his Psyche's zone
unbound,
And hallowed it with loveliness; 'tis
lone,
And wonderful, and deep, and hath a
sound,
And sense, and sight of sweetness;
here the Rhone
Hath spread himself a couch, the Alps
have reared a throne.

A MOONLIGHT NIGHT AT VENICE.

THE moon is up, and yet it is not
night—
Sunset divides the sky with her—a sea
Of glory streams along the Alpine
height
Of blue Friuli's mountain; Heaven is
free
From clouds, but of all colours seems
to be,—
Melted to one vast Iris of the
West,—
Where the Day joins the past Eternity

While, on the other hand, meek Dian's
crest
Floats through the azure air—an island of
the blest !

A single star is at her side, and reigns
With her o'er half the lovely heaven ;
but still
Yon sunny sea heaves brightly, and
remains
Rolled o'er the peak of the far Rhaetian
hill,
As Day and Night contending were,
until
Nature reclaimed her order ;—gently
flows
The deep-dyed Brenta, where their
hues instil
The odorous purple of a new-born rose,
Which streams upon her stream, and
glassed within it glows.

Filled with the face of heaven, which,
from afar,
Comes down upon the waters ; all its
hues,
From the rich sunset to the rising star,
Their magical variety diffuse :
And now they change ; a paler shadow
strews
Its mantle o'er the mountains ; parting
day
Dies like the dolphin, whom each pang
imbues
With a new colour as it gasps away,
The last still loveliest, till 'tis gone—
and all is gray.

ITALIA ! OH ITALIA !

ITALIA ! oh Italia ! thou who hast
The fatal gift of beauty, which became
A funeral dower of present woes and
past,
On thy sweet brow is sorrow ploughed
by shame,
And annals graved in characters of
flame.
Oh, God ! that thou wert in thy naked-
ness
Less lovely or more powerful, and
couldst claim

Thy right, and awe the robbers back,
who press
To shed thy blood, and drink the tears of
thy distress ;

Then mightst thou more appal ; or,
less desired,
Be homely and be peaceful, unde-
plored
For thy destructive charms ; then, still
untired,
Would not be seen the armed torrents
poured
Down the deep Alps ; nor would the
hostile horde
Of many-nationed spoilers from the Po
Quaff blood and water ; nor the stran-
ger's sword
Be thy sad weapon of defence, and so,
Victor or vanquished, thou the slave of
a end or foe.

THE VENUS DI MEDICI AT FLORENCE.

THERE, too, the Goddess loves in
stone, and fills
The air around with beauty ; we in-
hale
The ambrosial aspect, which, beheld,
instils
Part of its immortality ; the veil
Of heaven is half undrawn ; within the
pale
We stand, and in that form and face
behold
What Mind can make, when Nature's
self would fail ;
And to the fond idolaters of old
Envy the innate flash which such a soul
could mould :

We gaze and turn away, and know not
where,
Dazzled and drunk with beauty, till the
heart
Reels with its fulness ; there—for ever
there—
Chained to the chariot of triumphal
Art,
We stand as captives, and would not
depart.

Away!—there need no words, nor terms precise,
The paltry jargon of the marble mart,
Where Pandantry gulls Folly—we have eyes :
Blood—pulse—and breast, confirm the Dardan shepherd's prize.

Apparedest thou not to Paris in this guise ?
Or to more deeply blest Anchises ? or,
In all thy perfect goddess-ship, when lies
Before thee thy own vanquished Lord of War ?
And gazing in thy face as toward a star,
Laid on thy lap, his eyes to thee up-
turn,
Feeding on thy sweet cheek ! while thy lips are
With lava kisses melting while they burn,
Showered on his eyelids, brow, and mouth, as from an urn ?

Glowing, and circumfused in speechless love,
Their full divinity inadequate
That feeling to express, or to improve,
The gods become as mortals, and man's fate
Has moments like their brightest ; but the weight
Of earth recoils upon us ;—let it go !
We can recall such visions, and create,
From what has been, or might be, things which grow
Into thy statue's form, and look like gods below.

THE CATARACT OF VELINO.

THE roar of waters !—from the head-
long height
Velino cleaves the wave-worn precipice ;
The fall of waters ! rapid as the light
The flashing mass foams shaking the abyss ;
The hell of waters ! where they howl
and hiss,
And boil in endless torture ; while the sweat

Of their great agony, wrung out from this
Their Phlegethon, curls round the rocks
of jet
That gird the gulf around, in pitiless
horror set,

And mounts in spray the skies, and
thence again
Returns in an unceasing shower, which
round,
With its unemptied cloud of gentle
rain,
Is an eternal April to the ground,
Making it all one emerald :—how pro-
found
The gulf ! and how the giant element
From rock to rock leaps with delirious
bound,
Crushing the cliffs, which, downward
worn and rent
With his fierce footsteps, yield in chasms
a fearful vent

To the broad column which rolls on,
and shows
More like the fountain of an infant sea
Torn from the womb of mountains by
the throes
Of a new world, than only thus to be
Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly,
With many windings, through the
vale :—Look back !
Lo ! where it comes like an eternity,
As if to sweep down all things in its
track,
Charming the eye with dread,—a match-
less cataract,

Horribly beautiful ! but on the verge,
From side to side, beneath the glitter-
ing morn,
An Iris sits, amidst the infernal surge,
Like Hope upon a death-bed, and, un-
worn
Its steady dyes, while all around is torn
By the distracted waters, bears serene
Its brilliant hues with all their beams
unshorn :
Resembling, 'mid the torture of the
scene,
Love watching Madness with unalterable
mien.

ROME.

OH Rome! my country! city of the
soul!
The orphans of the heart must turn to
thee,
Lone mother of dead empires! and
control
In their shut breasts their petty misery.
What are our woes and sufferance?
Come and see
The cypress, hear the owl, and plod,
your way
O'er steps of broken thrones and
temples, Ye!
Whose agonies are evils of a day—
A world is at our feet as fragile as our
clay.

The Niobe of nations! there she stands,
Childless and crownless, in her voice-
less woe;
An empty urn within her withered
hands,
Whose holy dust was scattered long
ago;
The Scipios' tomb contains no ashes
now;
The very sepulchres lie tenantless
Of their heroic dwellers: dost thou
flow,
Old Tiber! through a marble wilder-
ness?
Rise, with thy yellow waves, and mantle
her distress.

The Goth, the Christian, Time, War,
Flood, and Fire,
Have dealt upon the seven-hilled city's
pride;
She saw her glories star by star expire,
And up the steep barbarian monarchs
ride,
Where the car climbed the Capitol;
far and wide
Temple and tower went down, nor left
a site:
Chaos of ruins! who shall trace the
void,
O'er the dim fragments cast a lunar
light,
And say, "here was, or is," where all is
doubly night?

The double night of ages, and of her,
Night's daughter, Ignorance, hath
wrapt and-wrap
All round us; we but feel our way to
err:
The ocean hath its chart, the stars
their map,
And Knowledge spreads them on her
ample lap;
But Rome is as the desert, where we
steer
Stumbling o'er recollections; now we
clap
Our hands, and cry "Eureka!" it is
clear—
When but some false mirage of ruin rises
near.

Alas! the lofty city! and alas!
The trebly hundred triumphs! and the
day
When Brutus made the dagger's edge
surpass
The conqueror's sword in bearing fame
away!
Alas, for Tully's voice, and Virgil's lay,
And Livy's pictured page!—but these
shall be
Her resurrection; all beside—decay.
Alas for Earth, for never shall we see
That brightness in her eye she bore when
Rome was free!

FREEDOM'S TRUE HEROES.

CAN tyrants but by tyrants conquered
be,
And Freedom find no champion and no
child
Such as Columbia saw arise when she
Sprung forth a Pallas, armed and un-
defiled?
Or must such minds be nourished in
the wild,
Deep in the unpruned forest, 'midst the
roar
Of cataracts, where nursing Nature
smiled
On infant Washington? Hath Earth
no more
Such seeds within her breast, or Europe
no such shore?

But Franco got drunk with blood to vomit crime,
 And fatal have her Saturnalia been
 To Freedom's cause, in every age and clime ;
 Because the deadly days which we have seen,
 And vile Ambition, that built up between
 Man and his hopes an adamant wall,
 And the base pageant last upon the scene,
 Are grown the pretext for the eternal thrall
 Which nips life's tree, and dooms man's worst—his second fall.

Yet, Freedom ! yet thy banner, torn,
 but flying,
 Streams like the thunder-storm against the wind ;
 Thy trumpet voice, though broken now and dying,
 The loudest still the tempest leaves behind ;
 Thy tree hath lost its blossoms, and the rind,
 Chopped by the axe, looks rough and little worth,
 But the sap lasts,—and still the seed we find
 Sown deep, even in the bosom of the North ;
 So shall a better spring less bitter fruit bring forth.

THE FOUNTAIN OF EGERIA.

EGERIA ! sweet creation of some heart
 Which found no mortal resting-place so fair
 As thine ideal breast ; whate'er thou art
 Or wert,—a young Aurora of the air,
 The nympholepsy of some fond despair ;
 Or, it might be, a beauty of the earth,
 Who found a more than common votary there
 Too much adoring ; whatso'er thy birth,
 Thou wert a beautiful thought, and softly bodied forth.

The mosses of thy fountain still are sprinkled
 With thine Elysian water-drops ; the face
 Of thy cave-guarded spring, with years unwrinkled,
 Reflects the meek-eyed genius of the place,
 Whose green, wild margin now no more erase
 Art's works ; nor must the delicate waters sleep,
 Prisoned in marble, bubbling from the base
 Of the cleft statue, with a gentle leap
 The rill runs o'er, and round fern, flowers, and ivy creep,

Fantastically tangled : the green hills
 Are clothed with early blossoms, through the grass
 The quick-eyed lizard rustles, and the bills
 Of summer-birds sing welcome as ye pass ;
 Flowers fresh in hue, and many in their class,
 Implore the pausing step, and with their dyes
 Dance in the soft breeze in a fairy mass ;
 The sweetness of the violet's deep blue eyes,
 Kissed by the breath of heaven, seems coloured by its skies.

Here didst thou dwell, in this enchanted cover,
 Egeria ! thy all heavenly bosom beating
 For the far footsteps of thy mortal lover ;
 The purple Midnight veiled that mystic meeting
 With her most starry canopy, and seating
 Thyself by thine adorer, what befel ?
 This cave was surely shaped out for the greeting
 Of an enamoured Goddess, and the cell
 Haunted by holy Love—the earliest oracle !

LOVE'S SORROWS.

ALAS! our young affections run to waste,
 Or water but the desert; whence arise
 But weeds of dark luxuriance, tares of haste,
 Rank at the core, though tempting to the eyes,
 Flowers whose wild odours breathe but agonies,
 And trees whose gums are poisons; such the plants
 Which spring beneath her steps as Passion flies
 O'er the world's wilderness, and vainly pants
 For some celestial fruit forbidden to our wants.

Oh Love! no habitant of earth thou art—
 An unseen seraph, we believe in thee,—
 A faith whose martyrs are the broken heart,—
 But never yet hath seen, nor e'er shall see
 The naked eye, thy form, as it should be;
 The mind hath made thee, as it peopled heaven,
 Even with its own desiring phantasy,
 And to a thought such shape and image given,
 As haunts the unquenched soul - parched
 —wearied—wrung—and riven.

Of its own beauty is the mind diseased,
 And fevers into false creation:—where,
 Where are the forms the sculptor's soul hath seized?
 In him alone. Can Nature show so fair?
 Where are the charms and virtues which we dare
 Conceive in boyhood and pursue as men,
 The unreached Paradise of our despair,
 Which o'er-informs the pencil and the pen,
 And overpowers the page where it would bloom again?

Who loves, raves—'tis youth's frenzy—but the cure
 Is bitterer still, as charm by charm un-winds
 Which robed our idols, and we see too sure
 Nor worth nor beauty dwells from out the mind's
 Ideal shape of such; yet still it binds
 The fatal spell, and still it draws us on,
 Reaping the whirlwind from the oft-sown winds;
 The stubborn heart, its alchemy begun,
 Seems ever near the prize,—wealthiest when most undone.

We wither from our youth, we gasp away—
 Sick—sick; unfound the boon—un-slaked the thirst,
 Though to the last, in verge of our decay,
 Some phantom lures, such as we sought at first—
 But all too late,—so are we doubly curst.
 Love, fame, ambition, avarice—'tis the same,
 Each idle—and all ill—and none the worst—
 For all are meteors with a different name,
 And Death the sable smoke where vanishes the flame.

Few—none—find what they love or could have loved,
 Though accident, blind contact, and the strong
 Necessity of loving, have removed
 Antipathies—but to recur, ere long,
 Envenomed with irrevocable wrong;
 And Circumstance, that unspiritual god
 And miscreator, makes and helps along
 Our coming evils with a crutch like rod,
 Whose touch turns Hope to dust,—the dust we all have trod.

INVOCATION TO NEMESIS.

AND thou, who never yet of human
wrong

Left the unbalanced scale, great Ne-
mesis!

Here, where the ancient paid thee
homage long—

Thou who didst call the Furies from
the abyss,

And round Orestes bade them howl
and hiss

For that unnatural retribution—just
Had it but been from hands less near—

in this [dust!

Thy former realm, I call thee from the
Dost thou not hear my heart?—Awake!
thou shalt, and must.

* * * * *

And if my voice break forth, 'tis not
that now

I shrink from what is suffered: let him
speak

Who hath beheld decline upon my
brow,

Or seen my mind's convulsion leave it
weak;

But in this page a record will I seek.
Not in the air shall these my words

disperse,

Though I be ashes; a far hour shall
wreak [verse,

The deep prophetic fulness of this
And pile on human heads the mountain
of my curse!

That curse shall be Forgiveness.—Have
I not—

Hear me, my mother Earth! behold
it, Heaven!—

Have I not had to wrestle with my
lot?

Have I not suffered things to be for-
given?

Have I not had my brain seared, my
heart riven,

Hopes sapped, name blighted, Life's
life lied away?

And only not to desperation driven,
Because not altogether of such clay

As rots into the souls of those whom I
survey.

From mighty wrongs to petty perfidy
Have I not seen what human things
could do?

From the loud roar of foaming calumny
To the small whisper of the as paltry
few,

And subtler venom of the reptile crew,
The Janus glance of whose significant
eye,

Learning to lie with silence, would
seem true,

And without utterance, save the shrug
or sigh,

Deal round to happy fools its speechless
obloquy.

But I have lived, and have not lived in
vain:

My mind may lose its force, my blood
its fire,

And my frame perish even in conquer-
ing pain; [tire

But there is that within me which shall
Torture and Time, and breathe when I
expire.

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## THE STATUE OF APOLLO.

OR view the Lord of the unerring bow,  
The God of life, and poesy, and light—  
The Sun in human limbs arrayed, and  
brow

All radiant from his triumph in the  
fight;

The shaft hath just been shot—the  
arrow bright

With an immortal's vengeance; in his  
eye

And nostril beautiful disdain, and  
might

And majesty, flash their full lightnings  
by,

Developing in that one glance the Deity.

But in his delicate form—a dream of  
Love,

Shaped by some solitary nymph, whose  
breast

Longed for a deathless lover from  
above,

And maddened in that vision—are  
express

All that ideal beauty ever blessed  
 The mind with in its most unearthly  
 mood,  
 When each conception was a heavenly  
 guest—  
 A ray of immortality—and stood  
 Starlike, around, until they gathered to a  
 god !

And if it be Prometheus stole from  
 Heaven  
 The fire which we endure, it was repaid  
 By him to whom the energy was given  
 Which this poetic marble hath arrayed  
 With an eternal glory—which, if made  
 By human hands, is not of human  
 thought ;  
 And Time himself hath hallowed it,  
 nor laid  
 One ringlet in the dust—nor hath it  
 caught  
 A tinge of years, but breathes the flame  
 with which 'twas wrought.

#### THE DEATH OF THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.

HARK ! forth from the abyss a voice  
 proceeds,  
 A long low distant murmur of dread  
 sound,\*  
 Such as arises when a nation bleeds  
 With some deep and inmedicable  
 wound ;  
 Through storm and darkness yawns the  
 rending ground,  
 The gulf is thick with phantoms, but  
 the chief  
 Seems royal still, though with her head  
 dis-crowned,  
 And pale, but lovely, with maternal  
 grief  
 She clasps a babe to whom her breast  
 yields no relief.

Scion of chiefs and monarchs, where  
 art-thou ?  
 Fond hope of many nations, art thou  
 dead ?  
 Could not the grave forget thee, and  
 lay low  
 Some less majestic, less beloved head ?

In the sad midnight, while thy heart  
 still bled,  
 The mother of a moment, o'er thy boy,  
 Death hushed that pang for ever : with  
 thee fled  
 The present happiness and promised  
 joy  
 Which filled the imperial isles so full it  
 seemed to cloy.

Peasants bring forth in safety.—Can it  
 be,  
 Oh thou that wert so happy, so adored !  
 Those who weep not for kings shall  
 weep for thee,  
 And Freedom's heart, grown heavy,  
 cease to hoard  
 Her many griefs for One ; for she had  
 poured  
 Her orisons for thee, and o'er thy head  
 Beheld her Iris.—Thou, too, lonely  
 lord,  
 And desolate consort—vainly wert thou  
 wed !  
 The husband of a year ! the father of the  
 dead !

Of sackcloth was thy wedding garment  
 made ;  
 Thy bridal's fruit is ashes : in the dust  
 The fair-haired Daughter of the Isles is  
 laid,  
 The love of millions ! How we did en-  
 trust  
 Futurity to her ! and, though it must  
 Darken above our bones, yet fondly  
 deemed  
 Our children should obey her child,  
 and blessed  
 Her and her hoped-for seed, whose pro-  
 mise seemed  
 Like stars to shepherds' eyes :—'twas but  
 a meteor beamed.

Woe unto us, not her ; for she sleeps  
 well !  
 The fickle reek of popular breath, the  
 tongue  
 Of hollow counsel, the false oracle,  
 Which from the birth of monarchy hath  
 rung  
 Its knell in princely ears, till the o'er-  
 stung

Nations have armed in madness, the  
strange fate  
Which tumbles mighty sovereigns, and  
hath flung  
Against their blind omnipotence a  
weight  
Within the opposing scale, which crushes  
soon or late,—

These might have been her destiny ;  
but no,  
Our hearts deny it : and so young, so  
fair,  
Good without effort, great without a  
foe ;  
But now a bride and mother—and now  
*there!*—  
How many ties did that stern moment  
tear !  
From thy Sire's to his humblest sub-  
ject's breast  
Is linked the electric chain of that  
despair,  
Whose shock was as an earthquake's,  
and oppress  
The land which loved thee so that none  
could love thee best.

### SOLITUDE.

OH ! that the desert were my dwelling-  
place,  
With one fair spirit for my minister,  
That I might all forget the human race,  
And, hating no one, love but only her !  
Ye elements !—in whose ennobling stir  
I feel myself exalted—Can ye not  
Accord me such a being ? Do I err  
In deeming such inhabit many a spot ?  
Though with them to converse can rarely  
be our lot.

There is a pleasure in the *pathless*  
woods,  
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society, where none intrudes,  
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar :  
I love not Man the less, but Nature  
more,  
From these our interviews, in which I  
steal

From all I may be, or have been be-  
fore,  
To mingle with the Universe, and feel  
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all  
conceal.

### THE OCEAN.

ROLL on, thou deep and dark blue,  
Ocean—roll !  
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in  
vain ;  
Man marks the earth with ruin—his  
control  
Stops with the shore ;—upon the  
watery plain  
The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth  
remain  
A shadow of man's ravage, save his  
own,  
When, for a moment, like a drop of  
rain,  
He sinks into thy depths with bubbling  
groan,  
Without a grave, unknelled, uncoffined,  
and unknown.

His steps are not upon thy paths,—thy  
fields [arise  
Are not a spoil for him,—thou dost  
And shake him from thee ; the vile  
*strength* he wields  
For earth's destruction thou dost all  
despise,  
Spurning him from thy bosom to the  
skies,  
And send'st him, shivering in thy play-  
ful spray  
And howling, to his gods, where haply  
lies [bay,  
His petty hope in some near port or  
And dashest him again to earth :—there  
let him lay.

The armaments which thunderstrike the  
walls  
Of rock-built cities, bidding nations  
quake,  
And monarchs tremble in their  
capitals,  
The oak Leviathans, whose huge ribs  
make

Their clay creator the vain title take  
Of lord of thee, and arbiter of war ;  
These are thy toys, and, as the snowy  
flake,  
They melt into thy yeast of waves,  
which mar  
Alike the Armada's pride or spoils of  
Trafalgar.

Thy shores are empires, changed in all  
save thee—  
Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage,  
what are they ?  
Thy waters washed them power while  
they were free,  
And many a tyrant since ; their shores  
obey  
The stranger, slave, or savage ; their  
decay  
Has dried up realms to deserts :—not  
so thou ;—  
Unchangeable save to thy wild waves'  
play—  
Time writes no wrinkle on thine azure  
brow—  
Such as creation's dawn beheld, thou  
rollest now.

Thou glorious mirror, where the Al-  
mighty's form  
Glasses itself in tempests ; in all time,  
Calm or convulsed—in breeze, or gale,  
or storm,  
Icing the pole, or in the torrid clime  
Dark-heaving ; — boundless, endless,  
and sublime—  
The image of Eternity—the throne  
Of the Invisible ; even from out thy  
slime  
The monsters of the deep are made :  
each zone  
Obeys thee : thou goest forth, dread,  
fathomless, alone.

And I have loved thee, Ocean ! and my  
joy  
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to  
be  
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward : from  
a boy  
I wanted with thy breakers—they to  
me

Were a delight ; and if the freshening  
sea  
Made them a terror—'twas a pleasing  
tear,  
For I was as it were a child of thee,  
And trusted to thy billows far and near,  
And laid my hand upon thy mane—as I  
do here.

## SONG OF THE CORSAIRS.

*The Corsair.*

O'ER the glad waters of the dark blue sea,  
Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls  
as free,  
Far as the breeze can bear, the billows  
foam,  
Survey our empire, and behold our home !  
These are our realms, no limits to their  
sway—  
Our flag the sceptre all who meet obey.  
Ours the wild life in tumult still to range  
From toil to rest, and joy in every change.  
Oh, who can tell ? not thou, luxurious  
slave !  
Whose soul would sicken o'er the heaving  
wave ;  
Not thou, vain lord of wantonness and  
ease !  
Whom slumber soothes not—pleasure  
cannot please—  
Oh, who can tell save he whose heart  
hath tried,  
And danced in triumph o'er the waters  
wide,  
The exulting sense—the pulse's maddening  
play, [way ?  
That thrills the wanderer of that trackless  
That for itself can woo the approaching  
fight,  
And turn what some deem danger to  
delight ;  
That seeks what cravens shun with more  
than zeal,  
And where the feeble faint—can only  
feel—  
Feel—to the rising bosom's inmost core,  
Its hope awaken and its spirit soar ?  
No dread of death—if with us die our  
foes—'  
Save that it seems even duller t  
repose :

Come when it will—we snatch the life of  
life—

When lost—what recks it—by disease or  
strife?

Let him who crawls enamoured of decay,  
Cling to his couch, and sicken years  
away;

Heave his thick breath, and shake his  
palsied head;

Ours—the fresh turf, and not the feverish  
bed.

While gasp by gasp he falters forth his  
soul,

Ours with one pang—one bound—escapes  
control.

His corse may boast its urn and narrow  
cave,

And they who loathed his life may gild  
his grave:

Ours are the tears, though few, sincerely  
shed,

When Ocean shrouds and sepulchres our  
dead.

For us, even banquets fond regrets supply  
In the red cup that crowns our memory;

And the brief epitaph in danger's day,  
When those who win at length divide the

prey,  
And cry, Remembrance saddening o'er  
each brow,

How had the brave who fell exulted now!

#### CONRAD.

THEY make obeisance and retire in haste,  
Too soon to seek again the watery waste:

Yet they repine not—so that Conrad  
guides,

And who dare question aught that he  
decides?

That man of loneliness and mystery,  
Scarce seen to smile, and seldom heard to

sigh;  
Whose name appals the fiercest of his  
crew,

And tints each swarthy cheek with sal-  
lower hue;

Still sways their souls with that com-  
manding art

That dazzles, leads, yet chills the vulgar  
heart.

What is that spell, that thus his lawless  
train

Confess and envy, yet oppose in vain?

What should it be, that thus their faith

can bind?

The power of thought—the magic of the  
Mind!

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CONRAD'S LOVE FOR MEDORA.

NONE are all evil—quickenings round his
heart,

One softer feeling would not yet de-
part;

Oft could he sneer at others as beguiled
By passions worthy of a fool or child;

Yet 'gainst that passion vainly still he
strove,

And even in him it asks the name of
Love!

Yes, it was love—unchangeable—un-
changed,

Felt but for one from whom he never
ranged;

Though fairest captives daily met his
eye,

He shunned, nor sought, but coldly passed
them by;

Though many a beauty drooped in pri-
soned bower,

None ever soothed his most unguarded
hour.

Yes—it was Love—if thoughts of tender-
ness,

Tried in temptation, strengthened by
distress,

Unmoved by absence, firm in every
clime,

And yet—oh, more than all!—untired by
time;

Which nor defeated hope, nor baffled
wile,

Could render sullen, were she near to
smile;

Nor rage could fire, nor sickness fret to
vent

On her one murmur of his discontent;
Which still would meet with joy, with

calmness part,
Lest that his look of grief should reach
her heart;

Which nought removed, nor menaced to remove—
 If there be love in mortals—this was love !
 He was a villain—ay—reproaches shower
 On him—but not the passion, nor its power,
 Which only proved, all other virtues gone,
 Not guilt itself could quench this loveliest one !

THE PARTING OF CONRAD AND MEDORA.

SHE rose—she sprung—she clung to his embrace,
 Till his heart heaved beneath her hidden face,
 He dared not raise to his that deep-blue eye,
 Which downcast drooped in tearless agony.
 Her long fair hair lay floating o'er his arms,
 In all the wildness of dishevelled charms ;
 Scarce beat that bosom where his image dwelt
 So full—that feeling seemed ulmost un-felt !
 Hark—peals the thunder of the signal-gun !
 It told 'twas sunset—and he cursed that sun.
 Again—again—that form he madly pressed,
 Which mutely clasped, imploringly carressed !
 And tottering to the couch his bride he bore,
 One moment gazed—as if to gaze no more ;
 Felt—that for him earth held but her alone,
 Kissed her cold forehead—turned—is Conrad gone ?

“And is he gone ?”—on sudden solitude
 How oft that fearful question will intrude !
 “’Twas but an instant past—and here he stood !

And now”—without the portal's porch she rushed,
 And then at length her tears in freedom gushed ;
 Big,—bright—and fast, unknown to her they fell ;
 But still her lips refused to send—“Farewell !”
 For in that word—that fatal word—how-e'er
 We promise — hope — believe — there breathes despair,
 O'er every feature of that still pale face,
 Had sorrow fixed what time can ne'er erase :
 The tender blue of that large loving eye
 Grew frozen with its gaze on vacancy,
 Till—oh, how far !—it caught a glimpse of him,
 And then it flowed—and phrensied seemed to swim,
 Through those long, dark, and glistening lashes dewed
 With drops of sadness oft to be renewed.
 “He's gone !”—against her heart that hand is driven,
 Convulsed and quick—then gently raised to heaven ;
 She looked and saw the heaving of the main ;
 The white sail set—she dared not look again ;
 But turned with sickening soul within the gate—
 “It is no dream—and I am desolate !”

SUNSET IN THE MOREA.

SLOW sinks, more lovely ere his race be run,
 Along Morea's hills the setting sun ;
 Not, as in nothern climes, obscurely bright,
 But one unclouded blaze of living light !
 O'er the hushed deep the yellow beam he throws,
 Gilds the green wave, that trembles as it glows.
 On old Ægina's rock, and Idra's isle,
 The god of gladness sheds his parting smile ;

O'er his own regions lingering, loves to
shine,
Though there his altars are no more
divine.
Descending fast the mountain shadows
kiss
Thy glorious gulf, unconquered Salamis!
Their azure arches through the long ex-
panse
More deeply purpled meet his mellowing
glance,
And tenderest tints, along their summits
driven.
Mark his gay course, and own the hues
of heaven,
Till, darkly shaded from the land and
deep,
Behind his Delphian cliff he sinks to
sleep.

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CONRAD AND THE DEAD BODY  
OF MEDORA.

He turned not—spoke not—sunk not—  
fixed his look,  
And set the anxious frame that lately  
shook:  
He gazed—how long we gaze despite of  
pain,  
And know, but dare not own, we gaze in  
vain!  
In life itself she was so still and fair,  
That death with gentler aspect withered  
there;  
And the cold flowers her colder hand  
contained,  
In that last grasp as tenderly were strained  
As if she scarcely felt, but feigned a sleep,  
And made it almost mockery yet to weep:  
The long dark lashes fringed her lids of  
snow,  
And veiled—thought shrinks from all that  
lurked below—  
Oh! o'er the eye death most exerts his  
might,  
And hurls the spirit from her throne of  
light!  
Sinks those blue orbs in that long last  
eclipse,  
But spares, as yet, the charm around her  
lips—

Yet, yet they seem as they forbore to  
smile  
And wished repose—but only for a while;  
But the white shroud, and each extended  
tress,  
Long—fair—but spread in utter lifeless-  
ness,  
Which, late the sport of every summer  
wind,  
Escaped the baffled wreath that strove to  
bind;  
These—and the pale pure cheek, became  
the bier,  
But she is nothing—wherefore is he here?  
He asked no question—all were answered  
now  
By the first glance on that still, marble  
brow.  
It was enough—she died—what recked it  
how?  
The love of youth, the hope of better  
years,  
The source of softest wishes, tenderest  
fears,  
The only living thing he could not hate,  
Was reft at once—and he deserved his  
fate,  
But did not feel it less;—the good explore,  
For peace, those realms where guilt can  
never soar;  
The proud—the wayward—who have  
fixed below  
Their joy, and find this earth enough for  
woe,  
Lose in that one their all—perchance a  
mite—  
But who in patience parts with all delight?  
Full many a stoic eye and aspect stern  
Mask hearts where grief hath little left to  
learn!  
And many a withering thought lies hid,  
not lost,  
In smiles that least befit who wear them  
most.

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KALED.

Lara.

LIGHT was his form, and darkly delicate
That brow whereon his native sun had
sate,

But had not marred, though in his beams
 he grew,
 The cheek where oft the unbidden blush
 shone through;
 Yet not such blush as mounts when health
 would show
 All the heart's hue in that delighted glow;
 But 'twas a hectic tint of secret care
 That for a burning moment fevered there;
 And the wild sparkle of his eye seemed
 caught
 From high, and lightened with electric
 thought,
 Though its black orb those long low lashes
 fringe,
 Had tempered with a melancholy tinge;
 Yet less of sorrow than of pride was there,
 Or, if 'twere grief, a grief that none should
 share:
 And pleased not him the sports that please
 his age,
 The tricks of youth, the frolics of the
 page;
 For hours on Lara he would fix his glance,
 As all-forgotten in that watchful trance;
 And from his chief withdrawn, he wan-
 dered lone,
 Brief were his answers, and his questions
 none;
 His walk the wood, his sport some foreign
 book;
 His resting-place the bank that curbs the
 brook:
 He seemed, like him he served, to live
 apart
 For all that lures the eye, and fills the
 heart;
 To know no brotherhood, and take from
 earth
 No gift beyond that bitter boon—our birth.
 If aught he loved, 'twas Lara; but was
 shown
 His faith in reverence and in deeds alone;
 In mute attention; and his care, which
 guessed
 Each wish, fulfilled it ere the tongue ex-
 pressed.
 Still there was haughtiness in all he did,
 A spirit deep that brooked not to be chid;
 His zeal, though more than that of servile
 hands,
 In act alone obeys, his air commands;

As if 'twas Lara's less than his desire
 That thus he served, but surely not for
 hire.
 Slight were the tasks enjoined him by his
 lord,
 To hold the stirrup, or to bear the sword;
 To tune his lute, or, if he willed it more,
 On tomes of other times and tongues to
 pore;
 But ne'er to mingle with the menial train.
 To whom he showed nor deference nor
 disdain,
 But that well-worn reserve which proved
 he knew
 No sympathy with that familiar crew:
 His soul, whate'er his station or his stem,
 Could bow to Lara, not descend to them.
 Of higher birth he seemed, and better
 days,
 Nor mark of vulgar toil that hand betrays;
 So femininely white it might bespeak
 Another sex, when matched with that
 smooth cheek,
 But for his garb, and something in his
 gaze,
 More wild and high than woman's eye
 betrays;
 A latent fierceness that far more became
 His fiery climate than his tender frame:
 True, in his words it broke not from his
 breast,
 But from his aspect might be more than
 guessed.
 Kaled his name, though rumour said he
 bore
 Another ere he left his mountain shore;
 For sometimes he would hear, however
 nigh,
 That name repeated loud without reply,
 As unfamiliar, or, if roused again,
 Start to the sound, as but remembered
 then;
 Unless 'twas Lara's wonted voice that
 spake,
 For then, ear, eyes, and heart would all
 awake.

A BATTLE-FIELD.

DAY glimmers on the dying and the dead,
 The cloven cuirass, and the helmless
 head;

The war-horse masterless is on the earth,
And that last gasp hath burst his bloody
girth;

And near, yet quivering with what life re-
mained,

The heel that urged him and the hand
that reined;

And some too near that rolling torrent lie,
Whose waters mock the lip of those that
die;

That panting thirst which scorches in the
breath

Of those that die the soldier's fiery death,
In vain impels the burning mouth to crave
One drop—the last—to cool it for the
grave;

With feeble and convulsive effort swept
Their limbs along the crimsoned turf have
crept;

The faint remains of life such struggles
But yet they reach the stream, and bend
to taste :

They feel its freshness, and almost par-
Why pause?—no further thirst have they
to slake—

It is unquenched, and yet they feel it not;
It was an agony—but now forgot!

THE ISLES OF GREECE.

Don Juan.

THE isles of Greece, the isles of Greece!

Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,—

Where Delos rose, and Phœbus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.

The Scian and the Teian muse,

The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
Have found the fame your shores refuse;

Their place of birth alone is mute
To sounds which echo further west
Than your sires' "Islands of the Blest."

The mountains look on Marathon—

And Marathon looks on the sea;

And musing there an hour alone,
I dreamed that Greece might still be
free;

For standing on the Persians' grave,
I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sat on the rocky brow

Which looks o'er sea-born Salamis;

And ships, by thousands, lay below,

And men in nations;—all were his!

He counted them at break of day—

And when the sun set, where were they?

And where are they? and where art thou,

My country? On thy voiceless shore

The heroic lay is tuneless now—

The heroic bosom beats no more!

And must thy lyre, so long divine,

Degenerate into hands like mine?

'Tis something, in the dearth of fame,

Though linked among a fettered race,

To feel at least a patriot's shame,

Even as I sing, suffuse my face;

For what is left the poet here?

For Greeks a blush—for Greece a tear.

Must we but weep o'er days more blest?

Must we but blush?—Our fathers bled.

Earth! render back from out thy breast

A remnant of our Spartan dead!

Of the three hundred grant but three,

To make a new Thermopylæ!

What, silent still? and silent all?

Ah! no;—the voices of the dead

Sound like a distant torrent's fall,

And answer, "Let one living head,

But one arise,—we come, we come!"

'Tis but the living who are dumb.

In vain—in vain; strike other chords;

Fill high the cup with Samian wine!

Leave battles to the Turkish hordes,

And shed the blood of Scio's vine!

Hark! rising to the ignoble call—

How answers each bold Bacchanal!

You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet,

Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?

Of two such lessons, why forget

The nobler and the manlier one?

You have the letters Cadmus gave—

Think ye he meant them for a slave?

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!

We will not think of themes like these!

It made Anacreon's song divine:

He served—but served Polycrates—

A tyrant; but our masters then

Were still, at least, our countrymen.

The tyrant of the Chersonese

Was freedom's best and bravest friend ;
That tyrant was Miltiades !

Oh ! that the present hour would lend
Another despot of the kind !
Such chains as his were sure to bind.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine !
On Suli's rock, and Parga's shore,
Exists the remnant of a line

Such as the Doric mothers bore ;
And there, perhaps, some seed is sown,
The Heracleidan blood might own.

Trust not for freedom to the Franks—

They have a king who buys and sells :
In native swords, and native ranks,
The only hope of courage dwells ;
But Turkish force and Latin fraud
Would break your shield, however broad.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine !

Our virgins dance beneath the shade—
I see their glorious black eyes shine ;
But gazing on each glowing maid,
My own the burning tear-drop laves,
To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marbled steep,

Where nothing, save the waves and I,
May hear our mutual murmurs sweep ;
There, swan-like, let me sing and die :
A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—
Dash down yon cup of Samian wine !

THE DYING BOYS ON THE RAFT.

THERE were two fathers in this ghastly
crew,
And with them their two sons, of whom
the one

Was more robust and hardy to the view,
But he died early ; and when he was
gone,

His nearest messmate told his sire, who
threw

One glance at him, and said, "Heaven's
will be done ?

I can do nothing," and he saw him
thrown

Into the deep without a tear or groan.

The other father had a weaklier child,

Of a soft cheek, and aspect delicate ;
But the boy bore up long, and with a
mild

And patient spirit held aloof his fate ;
Little he said, and now and then he
smiled,

As if to win a heart from off the
weight,

He saw increasing on his father's heart,
With the deep deadly thought that they
must part.

And o'er him bent his sire, and never
raised

His eyes from off his face, but wiped
the foam [gazed,

From his pale lips, and ever on him
And when the wished-for shower at
length was come,

And the boy's eyes, which the dull film
half glazed,

Brightened, and for a moment seemed
to roam,

He squeezed from out a rag some drops
of rain

Into his dying child's mouth—but in
vain.

The boy expired—the father held the
clay, [last

And looked upon it long, and when at
Death left no doubt, and the dead bur-
then lay

Stiff on his heart, and pulse and hope
were past,

He watched it wistfully, until away

'Twas borne by the rude wave wherein
'twas cast ;

Then he himself sunk down all dumb and
shivering,

And gave no sign of life, save his limbs
quivering.

A BUNCH OF SWEETS.

'Tis sweet to hear

At midnight on the blue and moonlit
deep

The song and oar of Adria's gondolier,
By distance mellowed, o'er the waters
sweep ;

'Tis sweet to see the evening star
appear;

'Tis sweet to listen as the night-winds
creep
From leaf to leaf; 'tis sweet to view on
high
The rainbow, based on ocean, span the
sky.

'Tis sweet to hear the watch-dog's honest
bark

Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw
near home;

'Tis sweet to know there is an eye will
mark

Our coming, and look brighter when
we come;

'Tis sweet to be awakened by the
lark,

Or lulled by falling waters; sweet the
hum

Of bees, the voice of girls, the song of
birds,

The lisp of children, and their earliest
words.

Sweet is the vintage, when the showering
grapes

In Bacchanal profusion reel to earth,
Purple and gushing: sweet are our es-
capes

From civic revelry to rural mirth;

Sweet to the miser are his glittering
heaps,

Sweet to the father is his first-born's
birth,

Sweet is revenge—especially to women,
Pillage to soldiers, prize-money to sea-
men.

Sweet is a legacy, and passing sweet

The unexpected death of some old
lady,

Or gentleman of seventy years complete,
Who've made "us youth" wait too,
too long already,

For an estate, or cash, or country seat,

Still breaking, but with stamina so
steady,

That all the Israelites are fit to mob its
Next owner for their double-damned post-
obits.

'Tis sweet to win, no matter how, one's
laurels,

By blood or ink; 'tis sweet to put an
end

To strife; 'tis sometimes sweet to have
our quarrels,

Particularly with a tiresome friend:

Sweet is old wine in bottles, ale in
barrels;

Dear is the helpless creature we defend
Against the world; and dear the school-
boy spot

We ne'er forget, though there we are
forgot.

But sweeter still than this, than these,
than all,

Is first and passionate love—it stands
alone,

Like Adam's recollection of his fall;

The tree of knowledge has been plucked
—all's known—

And life yields nothing further to recall

Worthy of this ambrosial sin, so shown,

No doubt in fable, as the unforgiven
Fire which Prometheus filched for us
from heaven.

MODERN CRITICS.

English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.

A MAN must serve his time to every
trade

Save censure—critics all are ready-made.

Take hackneyed jokes from Miller, got
by rote,

With just enough of learning to mis-
quote;

A mind well skilled to find or forge a
fault;

A turn for punning,—call it Attic salt;

To Jeffrey go; be silent and discreet,

His pay is just ten sterling pounds per
sheet.

Fear not to lie, 'twill seem a lucky
hit;

Shrink not from blasphemy, 'twill pass
for wit;

Care not for feeling—pass your proper
jest,

And stand a critic, hated yet caressed.

THE MEMORY OF KIRKE
WHITE.

UNHAPPY White! while life was in its
spring,
And thy young muse just waved her
joyous wing,
The spoiler came; and all thy promise
fair
Has sought the grave, to sleep for ever
there.
Oh! what a noble heart was here un-
done,
When Science' self destroyed her favourite
son!
Yes, she too much indulged thy fond pur-
suit,
She sowed the seeds, but Death has reaped
the fruit.
'Twas thine own genius gave the final
blow,
And helped to plant the wound that laid
thee low:
So the struck eagle, stretched upon the
plain,
No more through rolling clouds to soar
again,
Viewed his own feather on the fatal dart,
And winged the shaft that quivered in
his heart;
Keen were his pangs, but keener far to
feel,
He nursed the pinion which impelled the
steel;
While the same plumage that had warmed
his nest,
Drank the last life-drop of his bleeding
breast.

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DARKNESS.

I HAD a dream, which was not all a  
dream.  
The bright sun was extinguished, and the  
stars  
Did wander darkling in the eternal space,  
Rayless, and pathless, and the icy earth  
Swung blind and blackening in the moon-  
less air;  
Morn came and went—and came, and  
brought no day,

And men forgot their passions in the  
dread  
Of this their desolation; and all hearts  
Were chilled into a selfish prayer for  
light.  
And they did live by watchfires—and the  
thrones,  
The palaces of crownèd kings—the huts,  
The habitations of all things which dwell,  
Were burnt for beacons; cities were con-  
sumed,  
And men were gathered round the  
blazing homes  
To look once more into each other's  
face;  
Happy were those who dwelt within the  
eye  
Of the volcanoes, and their mountain-  
torch:  
A fearful hope was all the world con-  
tained;  
Forests were set on fire—but hour by  
hour  
They fell and faded—and the crackling  
trunks  
Extinguished with a crash—and all was  
black.  
The brows of men by the despairing  
light  
Wore an unearthly aspect, as by fits  
The flashes fell upon them; some lay  
down  
And hid their eyes and wept; and some  
did rest  
Their chins upon their clenched hands,  
and smiled;  
And others hurried to and fro, and fed  
Their funeral piles with fuel, and looked  
up  
With mad disquietude on the dull sky,  
The pall of a past world; and then  
again  
With curses cast them down upon the  
dust,  
And gnashed their teeth and howled; the  
wild birds shrieked,  
And, terrified, did flutter on the ground,  
And flap their useless wings; the wildest  
brutes  
Came tame and tremulous; and vipers  
crawled  
And twined themselves among the multi-  
tude,

Hissing, but stingless : they were slain  
 for food :  
 And War, which for a moment was no  
 more,  
 Did glut himself again. O meal was  
 bought  
 With blood, and each sate sullenly apart  
 Gorging himself in gloom : no love was  
 left ;  
 All earth was but one thought—and that  
 was death,  
 Immediate and inglorious ; and the pang  
 Of famine fed upon all entrails : men  
 Died, and their bones were tombless as  
 their flesh ;  
 The meagre by the meagre were de-  
 voured ;  
 Even dogs assailed their masters ; all save  
 one :  
 And he was faithful to a corse, and kept  
 The birds and beasts and famished men  
 at bay,  
 Till hunger clung them, or the dropping  
 dead  
 Lured their lank jaws ; himself sought  
 out no food,  
 But with a piteous and perpetual moan,  
 And a quick desolate cry, licking the  
 hand  
 Which answered not with a caress—he  
 died.  
 The crowd was famished by degrees : but  
 two  
 Of an enormous city did survive,  
 And they were enemies : they met be-  
 side  
 The dying embers of an altar-place  
 Where had been heaped a mass of holy  
 things  
 For an unholy usage ; they raked up,  
 And shivering scraped with their cold  
 skeleton hands  
 The feeble ashes, and their feeble breath  
 Blew for a little life, and made a flame  
 Which was a mockery : then they lifted  
 up  
 Their eyes as it grew lighter, and beheld  
 Each other's aspects—saw, and shrieked,  
 and died—  
 Even of their mutual hideousness they  
 died—  
 Unknowing who he was upon whose  
 brow

Famine had written Fiend. The world  
 was void,  
 The populous and the powerful was a  
 lump,  
 Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless,  
 lifeless—  
 A lump of death—a chaos of hard clay.  
 The rivers, lakes, and ocean all stood  
 still,  
 And nothing stirred within their silent  
 depths ;  
 Ships sailorless lay rotting on the sea,  
 And their masts fell down piecemeal ; as  
 they dropped  
 They slept on the abyss without a surge—  
 The waves were dead ; the tides were in  
 their grave,  
 The Moon, their mistress, had expired  
 before ;  
 The winds were withered in the stagnant  
 air,  
 And the clouds perished ! Darkness had  
 no need  
 Of aid from them—She was the Universe.

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 ODE TO NAPOLEON.

'Tis done—but yesterday a King !
 And armed with Kings to strive,
 And now thou art a nameless thing ;
 So abject—yet alive !
 Is this the man of thousand thrones,
 Who strewed our earth with hostile bones,
 And can he thus survive ?
 Since he, miscalled the Morning Star,
 Nor man nor fiend hath fallen so far.

 Ill-minded man ! why scourge thy kind
 Who bowed so low the knee ?
 By gazing on thyself grown blind,
 Thou taught'st the rest to see.
 With might unquestioned—power to
 save,—
 Thine only gift hath been the grave,
 To those that worshipped thee ;
 Nor till thy fall could mortals guess
 Ambition's less than littleness !

 Thanks for that lesson—it will teach.
 To after warriors more
 Than high Philosophy can preach,
 And vainly preached before.

That spell upon the minds of men
Breaks never to unite again,

That led them to adore
Those Pagod things of sabre sway,
With fronts of brass, and feet of clay.

The triumph, and the vanity,
The rapture of the strife—
The earthquake voice of Victory,
To thee the breath of life ;
The sword, the sceptre, and that sway
Which man seemed made but to obey,
Wherewith renown was rife—
All quelled !—Dark Spirit ! what must be
The madness of thy memory !

The Desolator desolate !
The Victor overthrown !
The arbiter of others' fate
A suppliant for his own !
Is it some yet imperial hope,
That with such change can calmly cope ?
Or dread of death alone ?
To die a prince—or live a slave—
Thy choice is most ignobly brave !

He who of old would rend the oak,
Dreamed not of the rebound ;
Chained by the trunk he vainly broke—
Alone—how looked he round ?
Thou, in the sternness of thy strength,
An equal deed hast done at length,
And darker fate hast found :
He fell, the forest prowler's prey ;
But thou must eat thy heart away !

The Roman, when his burning heart
Was slaked with blood of Rome,
Threw down the dagger—dared depart,
In savage grandeur, home—
He dared depart in utter scorn
Of men that such a yoke had borne,
Yet left him such a doom !
His only glory was that hour
Of self-upheld abandoned power.

The Spaniard, when the lust of sway
Had lost its quickening spell,
Cast crowns for rosaries away,
An empire for a cell ;
A strict accountant of his beads,
A subtle disputant on creeds,
His dotage trifled well :

Yet better had he neither known
A bigot's shrine, nor despot's throne.

But thou—from thy reluctant hand
The thunderbolt is wrung—
Too late thou leav'st the high command
To which thy weakness clung ;
All Evil Spirit as thou art,
It is enough to grieve the heart
To see thine own unstrung ;
To think that God's fair world hath been
The footstool of a thing so mean !

And Earth hath spilt her blood for him,
Who thus can hoard his own !
And Monarchs bowed the trembling limb,
And thanked him for a throne !
Fair Freedom ! may we hold thee dear,
When thus thy mightiest foes their fear
In humblest guise have shown.
Oh ! ne'er may tyrant leave behind
A brighter name to lure mankind !

Thine evil deeds are writ in gore,
Nor written thus in vain—
Thy triumphs tell of fame no more,
Or deepen every stain :
If thou hadst died as honour dies,
Some new Napoleon might arise,
To shame the world again—
But who would soar the solar height,
To set in such a starless night ?

Weighed in the balance, hero dust
Is vile as vulgar clay ;
Thy scales, Mortality ! are just
To all that pass away :
But yet methought the living great
Some higher sparks should animate,
To dazzle and dismay ; [mirth
Nor deemed Contempt could thus make
Of these the Conquerors of the earth.

And she, proud Austria's mournful flower,
Thy still imperial bride ;
How bears her breast the torturing hour !
Still clings she to thy side ?
Must she, too, bend,—must she, too,
share,
Thy late repentance, long despair,
Thou throneless Homicide ?
If still she loves thee, hoard that gem ;
'Tis worth thy vanished diadem !

Then haste thee to thy sulien Isle,
 And gaze upon the sea ;
 That element may meet thy smile—
 It ne'er was ruled by thee !
 Or trace with thine all idle hand,
 In loitering mood upon the sand,
 That Earth is now as free !
 That Corinth's pedagogue hath now
 Transferred his by-word to thy brow.

Thou Timour ! in his captive's cage—
 What thoughts will there be thine,
 While brooding in thy prisoned rage ?
 But one—"The world *was* mine !"
 Unless, like he of Babylon,
 All sense is with thy sceptre gone,
 Life will not long confine
 That spirit poured so widely forth—
 So long obeyed—so little worth !

Or, like the thief of fire from heaven,
 Wilt thou withstand the shock ?
 And share with him, the unforgiven,
 His vulture and his rock !
 Foredoomed by God—by man accurst,
 And that last act, though not thy worst,
 The very Fiend's arch mock ;
 He in his fall preserved his pride,
 And, if a mortal, had as proudly died !

There was a day—there was an hour,
 While earth was Gaul's—Gaul's thine—
 When that immeasurable power
 Unsated to resign,
 Had been an act of purer fame,
 Than gathers round Marengo's name,
 And gilded thy decline,
 Through the long twilight of all time,
 Despite some passing clouds of crime.

But thou, forsooth, must be a king,
 And don the purple vest,
 As if that foolish robe could wring
 Remembrance from thy breast.
 Where is the faded garment ? where
 The gewgaws thou wert fond to wear,
 The star—the string—the crest ?
 Vain froward child of empire ! say,
 Are all thy playthings snatched away ?

Where may the wearied eye repose,
 When gazing on the Great ;
 Where neither guilty glory glows,
 Nor despicable state ?

Yes—one—the first—the last—the best—
 The Cincinnatus of the West,
 Whom envy dared not hate,
 Bequeath the name of Washington,
 To make man blush there was but one !

NAPOLEON'S FAREWELL.

(FROM THE FRENCH.)

FAREWELL to the land, where the gloom
 of my glory
 Arose and o'ershadowed the earth with
 her name—
 She abandons me now—but the page of
 her story,
 The brightest or blackest, is filled with
 my fame.
 I have warred with a world which van-
 quished me only
 When the meteor of conquest allured
 me too far ;
 I have coped with the nations which dread
 me thus lonely,
 The last single Captive to millions in
 war.

Farewell to thee, France ! when thy
 diadem crowned me,
 I made thee the gem and the wonder of
 earth,—
 But thy weakness decrees I should leave
 as I found thee,
 Decayed in thy glory, and sunk in thy
 worth.
 Oh ! for the veteran hearts that were
 wasted
 In strife with the storm, when their
 battles were won—
 Then the Eagle, whose gaze in that mo-
 ment was blasted,
 Had still soared with eyes fixed on
 victory's sun !

Farewell to thee, France !—but when
 Liberty rallies
 Once more in thy regions, remember
 me then—
 The violet still grows in the depths of thy
 valleys ;
 Though withered, thy tears will unfold
 it again—

Yet, yet I may baffle the hosts that surround us,
 And yet may thy heart leap awake to my voice—
 There are links which must break in the chain that has bound us,
Then turn thee and call on the Chief of thy choice !

~~~~~  
 TO THYRZA.

WITHOUT a stone to mark the spot,  
 And say, what Truth might well have said,

By all, save one, perchance forgot,  
 Ah ! wherefore art thou lowly laid ?

By many a shore and many a sea  
 Divided, yet beloved in vain !  
 The past, the future fled to thee,  
 To bid us meet—no—ne'er again !

Could this have been—a word, a look,  
 That softly said, "We part in peace,"  
 Had taught my bosom how to brook,  
 With fainter sighs, thy soul's release.

And didst thou not, since Death for thee  
 Prepared a light and pangless dait,  
 Once long for him thou ne'er shalt see,  
 Who held, and holds thee in his heart ?

Oh ! who like him had watched thee here ?

Or sadly marked thy glazing eye,  
 In that dread hour ere death appear,  
 When silent sorrow fears to sigh.

Till all was past ! But when no more  
 'Twas thine to reckon of human woe,  
 Affection's heart-drops, gushing o'er,  
 Had flowed as fast—as now they flow.

Shall they not flow, when many a day  
 In these, to me, deserted towers,  
 Ere called but for a time away,  
 Affection's mingling tears were ours ?

Ours too the glance none saw beside ;  
 The smile none else might understand ;  
 The whispered thought of hearts allied,  
 The pressure of the thrilling hand ;

The kiss, so guiltless and refined,  
 That Love each warmer wish forbore ;  
 Those eyes proclaimed so pure a mind,  
 Even passion blushed to plead for more.

The tone, that taught me to rejoice,  
 When prone, unlike thee, to repine ;  
 The song, celestial from thy voice,  
 But sweet to me from none but thine ;

The pledge we wore—I wear it still,  
 But where is thine ?—Ah ! where art thou ?

Of have I born the weight of ill,  
 But never bent beneath till now !

Well hast thou left in life's best bloom  
 The cup of woe for me to drain.  
 If rest alone be in the tomb,  
 I would not wish thee here again ;

But if in worlds more blest than this  
 Thy virtues seek a fitter sphere,  
 Impart some portion of thy bliss,  
 To wean me from mine anguish here.

Teach me—too early taught by thee !  
 To bear, forgiving and forgiven :  
 On earth thy love was such to me,  
 It fain would form my hope in heaven !

~~~~~  
 ONE STRUGGLE MORE, AND I
 AM FREE.

ONE struggle more, and I am free
 From pangs that rend my heart in twain ;

One last long sigh to love and thee,
 Then back to busy life again.

It suits me well to mingle now
 With things that never pleased before :
 Though every joy is fled below,
 What future grief can touch me more ?

Then bring me wine, the banquet bring !
 Man was not formed to live alone ;
 I'll be that light, unmeaning thing,
 That smiles with all, and weeps with none.

It was not thus in days more dear,
 It never would have been, but thou
 Hast fled, and left me lonely here ;
 Thou'rt nothing—all are nothing now

In vain my lyre would lightly breathe!
 The smile that sorrow fain would wear
 But mocks the woe that lurks beneath,
 Like roses o'er a sepulchre.
 'Though gay companionous o'er the bowl
 Dispel awhile the sense of ill;
 Though pleasure fires the maddening
 soul,
 The heart—the heart is lonely still!

On many a lone and lovely night
 It soothed to gaze upon the sky;
 For then I deemed the heavenly light
 Shone sweetly on the pensive eye:
 And oft I thought at Cynthia's noon,
 When sailing o'er the Ægean wave,
 "Now Thyrza gazes on the moon"—
 Alas, it gleamed upon her grave!

When stretched on fever's sleepless bed,
 And sickness shrunk my throbbing
 veins,
 "'Tis comfort still," I faintly said,
 "That Thyrza cannot know my pains:"
 Like freedom to the time-worn slave
 A boon 'tis idle then to give,
 Relenting Nature vainly gave
 My life, when Thyrza ceased to live!

My Thyrza's pledge in better days,
 When love and life alike were new!
 How different now thou meet'st my gaze!
 How tinged by time with sorrows hue!
 The heart that gave itself with thee
 Is silent—ah, were mine as still!
 Though cold as e'en the dead can be,
 It feels, it sickens with the chill.

Thou bitter pledge! thou mournful token!
 Though painful, welcome to my breast!
 Still, still, preserve that love unbroken,
 Or break the heart to which thou'rt
 pressed!

Time tempers love, but not removes,
 More hallowed when its hope is fled:
 Oh! what are thousand living loves
 To that which cannot quit the dead?

EUTHANASIA.

WHEN Time, or soon or late, shall bring
 The dreamless sleep that lulls the dead,
 Oblivion! may thy languid wing
 Wave gently o'er my dying bed!

No band of friends or heirs be there,
 To weep or wish the coming blow;
 No maiden with dishevelled hair,
 To feel or feign, decorous woe.

But silent let me sink to earth,
 With no officious mourners near;
 I would not mar one hour of mirth,
 Nor startle friendship with a tear.

Yet Love, if Love in such an hour
 Could nobly check its useless sighs
 Might then exert its latest power
 In her who lives and him who dies.

'Twere sweet, my Psyche! to the last
 Thy features still serene to see:
 Forgetful of its struggles past,
 E'en Pain itself should smile on thee.

But vain the wish—for Beauty still
 Will shrink, as shrinks the ebbing
 breath;
 And woman's tears, produced at will,
 Deceive in life, unman in death.

Then lonely be my latest hour,
 Without regret, without a groan;
 For thousands Death hath ceased to lower,
 And pain been transient or unknown.

"Ay, but to die, and go," alas!
 Where all have gone, and all must go!
 To be the nothing that I was
 Ere born to life and living woe.

Count o'er the joys thine hours have seen,
 Count o'er thy days from anguish free,
 And know, whatever thou hast been,
 'Tis something better not to be.

AND THOU ART DEAD, AS YOUNG AS FAIR.

AND thou art dead, as young and fair,
 As aught of mortal birth;
 And form so soft, and charms so rare,
 Too soon returned to Earth!
 Though Earth received them in her bed,
 And o'er the spot the crowd may tread
 In carelessness or mirth,
 There is an eye which could not brook
 A moment on that grave to look.

I will not ask where thou liest low,
 Nor gaze upon the spot ;
 There flowers or weeds at will may grow,
 So I behold them not :
 It is enough for me to prove
 That what I loved, and long must love,
 Like common earth can rot ;
 To me there needs no stone to tell,
 'Tis Nothing that I loved so well.

Yet did I love thee to the last
 As fervently as thou,
 Who didst not change through all the
 past,
 And canst not alter now.
 The love where Death has set his seal,
 Nor age can chill, nor rival steal,
 Nor falsehood disavow :
 And, what were worse, thou canst not see
 Or wrong, or change, or fault in me.

The better days of life were ours ;
 The worst can be but mine :
 The sun that cheers, the storm that lowers,
 Shall never more be thine.
 The silence of that dreamless sleep
 I envy now too much to weep ;
 Nor need I to repine
 That all those charms have passed
 away ;
 I might have watched through long
 decay.

The flower in ripened bloom unmatched
 Must fall the earliest prey ;
 Though by no hand untimely snatched,
 The leaves must drop away :
 And yet it were a greater grief
 To watch it withering, leaf by leaf,
 Than see it plucked to-day ;
 Since earthly eye but ill can bear
 To trace the change to foul from fair.

I know not if I could have borne
 To see thy beauties fade ;
 The night that followed such a **morning**
 Had worn a deeper shade :
 Thy day without a cloud hath passed,
 And thou wert lovely to the last :
 Extinguished, not decayed ;
 As stars that shoot along the sky
 Shine brightest as they fall from high.

As once I wept, if I could weep,
 My tears might well be shed,
 To think I was not near to keep
 One vigil o'er thy bed ;
 To gaze, how fondly ! on thy face,
 To fold thee in a faint embrace,
 Uphold thy drooping head ;
 And show that love, however vain,
 Nor thou nor I can feel again.

Yet how much less it were to gain,
 Though thou hast left me free,
 The loveliest things that still remain,
 Than thus remember thee !
 The all of thine that cannot die
 Through dark and dread Eternity
 Returns again to me,
 And more thy buried love endears
 Than aught, except its living years.

IF SOMETIMES IN THE HAUNTS OF MEN.

If sometimes in the haunts of men
 Thine image from my breast may fade,
 The lonely hour presents again
 The semblance of thy gentle shade :
 And now that sad and silent hour
 Thus much of thee can still restore,
 And sorrow unobserved may pour
 The plaint she dare not speak before.

Oh, pardon that in crowds awhile
 I waste one thought I owe to thee,
 And, self-condemned, appear to smile,
 Unfaithful to thy memory !
 Nor deem that memory less dear,
 That then I seem not to repine ;
 I would not fools should overhear
 One sigh that should be wholly thine.

If not the goblet pass unquaffed,
 It is not drained to banish care ;
 The cup must hold a deadlier draught,
 That brings a Lethe for despair.
 And could Oblivion set my soul
 From all her troubled visions free,
 I'd dash to earth the sweetest bowl
 That drowned a single thought of thee.

For wert thou vanished from my
mind,

Where could my vacant bosom turn ?
And who would then remain behind
To honour thine abandoned Urn ?
No, no—it is my sorrow's pride
That last dear duty to fulfil ;
Though all the world forget beside,
'Tis meet that I remember still.

For well I know, that such had
been

Thy gentle care for him, who now
Unmourned shall quit this mortal scene,
Where none regarded him, but thou :
And, oh ! I feel in that was given
A blessing never meant for me ;
Thou wert too like a dream of
heaven,
For earthly Love to merit thee.

TO GENEVRA.

THY cheek is pale with thought, but not
from woe ;

And yet so lovely, that if mirth could
flush

Its rose of whiteness with the brightest
blush,

My heart would wish away that ruder
glow :

And dazzle not thy deep blue eyes—but,
oh !

While gazing on them sterner eyes will
gush,

And into mine my mother's weakness
rush,

Soft as the last drops round heaven's airy
bow.

For, through thy long dark lashes low
depending,

The soul of melancholy gentleness

Gleams like a seraph from the sky de-
scending,

Above all pain, yet pitying all dis-
tress ;

At once such majesty with sweetness
blending,

I worship more, but cannot love thee
less.

ELEGIAC STANZAS

ON THE

DEATH OF SIR PETER PARKER, BART.

THERE is a tear for all that die,
A mourner o'er the humblest grave ;
But nations swell the funeral cry,
And Triumph weeps above the brave,

For them is sorrow's purest sigh
O'er Ocean's heaving bosom sent :
In vain their bones unburied lie,
All earth becomes their monument !

A tomb is theirs on every page,
An epitaph on every tongue :
The present hours, the future age,
For them bewail, to them belong.

For them the voice of festal mirth
Grows hushed, their name the only
sound ;
While deep Remembrance pours to Worth
The goblet's tributary round.

A theme to crowds that knew them not,
Lamented by admiring foes,
Who would not share their glorious lot ?
Who would not die the death they
chose ?

And, gallant Parker ! thus enshrined
Thy life, thy fall, the fame shall be ;
And early valour, glowing, find
A model in thy memory.

But there are breasts that bleed with thee
In woe, that glory cannot quell ;
And shuddering hear of victory,
Where one so dear, so dauntless, fell.

Where shall they turn to mourn thee less ?
When cease to hear thy cherished name ?
Time cannot teach forgetfulness,
While Grief's full heart is fed by Fame.

Aias ! for them, though not for thee,
They cannot choose but weep the more ;
Deep for the dead the grief must be,
Who ne'er gave cause to mourn before

SHE WALKS IN BEAUTY.

Hebrew Melodies.

SHE walks in beauty, like the night
 Of cloudless climes, and starry skies:
 And all that's best of dark and bright
 Meet in her aspect and her eyes:
 Thus mellowed to that tender light
 Which Heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
 Had half impaired the nameless grace,
 Which waves in every raven tress,
 Or softly lightens o'er her face;
 Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
 How pure, how dear their dwelling-
 place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
 So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
 The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
 But tell of days in goodness spent,
 A mind at peace with all below,
 A heart whose love is innocent!

THE HARP THE MONARCH
MINSTREL SWEPT.

THE harp the monarch minstrel swept,
 The King of men, the loved of Heaven,
 Which Music hallowed while she wept
 O'er tones her heart of hearts had given,
 Redoubled be her tears, its chords are
 riven!

It softened men of iron mould,
 It gave them virtues not their own;
 No ear so dull, no soul so cold,
 That felt not, fired not to the tone,
 Till David's lyre grew mightier than his
 throne!

It told the triumphs of our King,
 It wafted glory to our God;
 It made our gladdened valleys ring,
 The cedars bow, the mountains nod;
 Its sound aspired to heaven and there
 abode! [more,

Since then, though heard on earth no
 Devotion and her daughter Love,
 Still bid the bursting spirit soar
 To sounds that seem as from above,
 In dreams that day's broad light can
 not remove.

IF THAT HIGH WORLD.

If that high world, which lies beyond
 Our own, surviving Love endears;
 If there the cherished heart be fond,
 The eye the same, except in tears—
 How welcome those untrodden spheres!
 How sweet this very hour to die!
 To soar from earth and find all fears,
 Lost in thy light—Eternity!

It must be so: 'tis not for self
 That we so tremble on the brink;
 And striving to o'erleap the gulf,
 Yet cling to Being's severing link.
 Oh! in that future let us think
 To hold each heart the heart that shares,
 With them the immortal waters drink,
 And soul in soul grow deathless theirs

ON JORDAN'S BANKS.

ON Jordan's banks the Arab's camels
 stray,
 On Sion's hill the False One's votaries
 pray,
 The Baal-adorer bows on Sinai's steep—
 Yet there—even there—O God! Thy
 thunders sleep:

There—where Thy finger scorched the
 tablet stone!
 There—where Thy shadow to Thy people
 shone!

Thy glory shrouded in its garb of fire:
 Thyself—none living see and not expire!

Oh! in the lightning let Thy glance
 appear;
 Sweep from his shivered hand the op-
 pressor's spear;
 How long by tyrants shall thy land be
 trod!
 How long Thy temple worshipless, oh
 God!

JEPHTHA'S DAUGHTER.

SINCE our Country, our God—oh, my
 sire!
 Demand that thy daughter expire;

Since thy triumph was bought by thy
vow—
Strike the bosom that's bared for thee
now!

And the voice of my mourning is o'er,
And the mountains behold me no more:
If the hand that I love lay me low,
There cannot be pain in the blow!

And of this, oh, my father! be sure—
That the blood of thy child is as pure
As the blessing I beg ere it flow,
And the last thought that soothes me
below.

Though the virgins of Salem lament,
Be the judge and the hero unbent!
I have won the great battle for thee,
And my father and country are free!

When this blood of thy giving hath
gushed,
When the voice that thou lovest is hushed,
Let my memory still be thy pride,
And forget not I smiled as I died!

OH! SNATCHED AWAY IN BEAUTY'S BLOOM.

OH! snatched away in beauty's bloom,
On thee shall press no ponderous tomb;
But on thy turf shall roses rear
Their leaves, the earliest of the year;
And the wild cypress wave in tender
gloom.

And oft by yon blue gushing stream
Shall Sorrow lean her drooping head,
And feed deep thought with many a
dream,
And lingering pause and lightly tread;
Fond wretch! as if her step disturbed
the dead!

Away! we know that tears are vain,
That death nor heeds nor hears distress:
Will this unteach us to complain?
Or make one mourner weep the less?
And thou—who tell'st me to forget,
Thy looks are wan, thine eyes are wet.

MY SOUL IS DARK.

My soul is dark—Oh! quickly string
The harp I yet can brook to hear;
And let thy gentle fingers fling
Its melting murmurs o'er mine ear.
If in this heart a hope be dear,
That sound shall charm it forth again:
If in these eyes there lurk a tear,
'Twill flow, and cease to burn my brain.

But bid the strain be wild and deep,
Nor let thy notes of joy be first:
I tell thee, minstrel, I must weep,
Or else this heavy heart will burst;
For it hath been by sorrow nursed,
And ached in sleepless silence long;
And now 'tis doomed to know the worst,
And break at once—or yield to song.

I SAW THEE WEEP.

I saw thee weep—the big bright tear
Came o'er that eye of blue:
And then methought it did appear
A violet dropping dew:
I saw thee smile—the sapphire's blaze
Beside thee ceased to shine;
It could not match the living rays
That filled that glance of thine.

As clouds from yonder sun receive
A deep and mellow dye,
Which scarce the shade of coming eve
Can banish from the sky,
Those smiles unto the moodiest mind
Their own pure joy impart;
Their sunshine leaves a glow behind
That lightens o'er the heart.

WHEN COLDNESS WRAPS THIS SUFFERING CLAY.

WHEN coldness wraps this suffering clay,
Ah! whither strays the immortal mind?
It cannot die, it cannot stay,
But leaves its darkened dust behind.
Then, unembodied, doth it trace
By steps each planet's heavenly way?
Or fill at once the realms of space,
A thing of eyes, that all survey?

Eternal, boundless, undecayed,
 A thought unseen, but seeing all,
 All, all in earth, or skies displayed,
 Shall it survey, shall it recall :
 Each fainter trace that memory holds
 So darkly of departed years,
 In one broad glance the soul beholds,
 And all, that was, at once appears.

Before Creation peopled earth,
 Its eye shall roll through chaos back ;
 And where the furthest heaven had birth,
 The spirit trace its rising track,
 And where the future mars or makes,
 Its glance dilate o'er all to be,
 While sun is quenched or system breaks,
 Fixed in its own eternity.

Above or Love, Hope, Hate, or Fear,
 It lives all passionless and pure :
 An age shall fleet like earthly year ;
 Its years as moments shall endure.
 Away, away, without a wing,
 O'er all, through all, its thought shall
 fly ;
 A nameless and eternal thing,
 Forgetting what it was to die.

SUN OF THE SLEEPLESS.

SUN of the sleepless ! melancholy star !
 Whose tearful beam glows tremulously
 far,
 That show'st the darkness thou canst not
 dispel,
 How like art thou to joy remembered
 well ! [days,
 So gleams the past, the light of other
 Which shines, but warms not with its
 powerless rays ;
 A night-beam Sorrow watcheth to be-
 hold,
 Distinct, but distant—clear—but oh, how
 cold !

THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB.

THE Assyrian came down like the wolf
 on the fold,
 And his cohorts were gleaming in purple
 and gold ;

And the sheen of their spears was like
 stars on the sea,
 When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep
 Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Sum-
 mer is green,
 That host with their banners at sunset
 were seen :
 Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn
 hath blown,
 That host on the morrow lay withered
 and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings
 on the blast,
 And breathed in the face of the foe as he
 passed ;
 And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly
 and chill,
 And their hearts but once heaved, and for
 ever grew still !

And there lay the steed with his nostrils
 all wide,
 But through it there rolled not the breath
 of his pride :
 And the foam of his gasping lay white on
 the turf,
 And cold as the spray of the rock-beating
 surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and
 pale,
 With the dew on his brow and the rust
 on his mail ;
 And the tents were all silent, the banners
 alone,
 The lances unlifted, the trumpet un-
 blown.

And the widows of Ashur are loud in
 their wail,
 And the idols are broke in the temple of
 Baal ;
 And the might of the Gentile, unsmeared
 by the sword,
 Hath melted like snow in the glance of
 the Lord !

STANZAS FOR MUSIC.

Miscellaneous Poems.

THERE'S not a joy the world can give
like that it takes away,
When the glow of early thought declines
in feeling's dull decay.

'Tis not on youth's smooth cheek the
blush alone, which fades so fast,
But the tender bloom of heart is gone, ere
youth itself be past.

Then the few whose spirits float above
the wreck of happiness, [of excess:
Are driven o'er the shoals of guilt or ocean
The magnet of their course is gone, or
only points in vain

The shore to which their shivered sail
shall never stretch again.

Then the mortal coldness of the soul like
death itself comes down ;
It cannot feel for others' woes, it dare not
dream its own ;

That heavy chill has frozen o'er the foun-
tain of our tears,
And though the eye may sparkle still, 'tis
where the ice appears.

Though wit may flash from fluent lips,
and mirth distract the breast,
Through midnight hours that yield no
more their former hope of rest ;

'Tis but as ivy-leaves around the ruined
turret wreath,

All green and wildly fresh without, but
worn and gray beneath.

Oh ! could I feel as I have felt, or be
what I have been,

Or weep as I could once have wept, o'er
many a vanished scene ;

As springs in deserts found seem sweet,
all brackish though they be,

So midst the withered waste of life, those
tears would flow to me.

~~~~~  
FAREWELL ! IF EVER FONDEST  
PRAYER.

FAREWELL ! if ever fondest prayer  
For other's weal availed on high,  
Mine will not all be lost in air,  
But waft thy name beyond the sky.

'Twere vain to speak, to weep, to sigh :  
Oh ! more than tears of blood can tell,  
When wrung from guilt's expiring eye,  
Are in that word—Farewell !—Fare-  
well !

These lips are mute, these eyes are dry ;  
But in my breast and in my brain,  
Awake the pangs that pass not by,  
The thought that ne'er shall sleep again.  
My soul nor deigns nor dares complain,  
Though grief and passion there rebel :  
I only know we loved in vain—  
I only feel—Farewell !—Farewell !

~~~~~

WHEN WE TWO PARTED.

WHEN we two parted
In silence and tears,
Half broken-hearted
To sever for years,
Pale grew thy cheek and cold,
Colder thy kiss ;
Truly that hour foretold
Sorrow to this.

The dew of the morning
Sank chill on my brow—
It felt like the warning
Of what I feel now.
Thy vows are all broken,
And light is thy fame ;
I hear thy name spoken,
And share in its shame.

They name thee before me,
A knell to mine ear ;
A shudder comes o'er me—
Why wert thou so dear ?
They know not I knew thee,
Who knew thee too well :—
Long, long shall I rue thee,
Too deeply to tell.

In secret we met—
In silence I grieve,
That thy heart could forget,
Thy spirit deceive.
If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee ?—
With silence and tears.

FARE THEE WELL.

FARE thee well ! and if for ever,
Still for ever, fare thee well ;
Even though unforgiving, never
'Gainst thee shall my heart rebel.

Would that breast were bared before
thee,
Where thy head so oft hath lain,
While that placid sleep came o'er thee
Which thou ne'er can'st know again :

Would that breast, by thee glanced over,
Every inmost thought could show !
Then thou wouldst at last discover
'Twas not well to spurn it so.

Though the world for this commend
thee—
Though it smile upon the blow,
Even its praises must offend thee,
Founded on another's woe :

Although my many faults defaced me,
Could no other arm be found,
Than the one which once embraced me,
To inflict a cureless wound ?

Yet, oh yet, thyself deceive not :
Love may sink by slow decay,
But by sudden wrench, believe not
Hearts can thus be torn away ;

Still thine own its life retaineth—
Still must mine, though bleeding, beat ;
And the undying thought which paineth
Is—that we no more may meet.

These are words of deeper sorrow
Than the wail above the dead ;
Both shall live, but every morrow
Wake us from a widowed bed.

And when thou wouldst solace gather,
When our child's first accents flow,
Wilt thou teach her to say " Father ! "
Though his care she must forego ?

When her little hands shall press thee,
When her lip to thine is pressed,
Think of him whose prayer shall bless
thee,
Think of him thy love had blessed !

Should her lineaments resemble
Those thou never more mayst see,
Then thy heart will softly tremble
With a pulse yet true to me.

All my faults perchance thou knowest,
All my madness none can know ;
All my hopes, where'er thou goest,
Whither, yet with thee they go.

Every feeling hath been shaken,
Pride, which not a world could bow,
Bows to thee—by thee forsaken,
Even my soul forsakes me now :

But 'tis done—all words are idle—
Words from me are vainer still ;
But the thoughts we cannot bridle
Force their way without the will.

Fare thee well !—thus disunited,
Torn from every nearer tie ;
Seared in heart, and lone, and blighted,
More than this I scarce can die.

STANZAS TO AUGUSTA (LORD
BYRON'S SISTER).

THOUGH the day of my destiny's over,
And the star of my fate hath declined,
Thy soft heart refused to discover
The faults which so many could find ;
Though thy soul with my grief was
acquainted,
It shrunk not to share it with me,
And the love which my spirit hath
painted
It never hath found but in thee.

Then when nature around me is smiling,
The last smile which answers to mine,
I do not believe it beguiling,
Because it reminds me of thine ;
And when winds are at war with the
ocean,
As the breasts I believed in with me,
If their billows excite an emotion,
It is that they bear me from thee.

Though the rock of my last hope is
shivered,

And its fragments are sunk in the wave,
Though I feel that my soul is delivered
To pain—it shall not be its slave.

There is many a pang to pursue me :

They may crush, but they shall not
contemn— [me—

They may torture, but shall not subdue
'Tis of thee that I think—not of them.

Though human, thou didst not deceive
me,

Though woman, thou didst not forsake,
Though loved, thou forbores to grieve
me,

Though slandered, thou never couldst
shake,—

Though trusted, thou didst not disclaim
me,

Though parted, it was not to fly,
Though watchful, 'twas not to defame
me,

Nor mute, that the world might belie.

Yet I blame not the world, nor despise it,
Nor the war of the many with one—

If my soul was not fitted to prize it,
'Twas folly not sooner to shun :

And if dearly that error hath cost me,
And more than I once could foresee,

I have found that, whatever it lost me,
It could not deprive me of thee.

From the wreck of the past, which hath
perished,

Thus much I at least may recall,
It hath taught me that what I most
cherished

Deserved to be dearest of all :

In the desert a fountain is springing,
In the wide waste there still is a tree,

And a bird in the solitude singing,
Which speaks to my spirit of thee.

~~~~~  
MAID OF ATHENS, ERE WE  
PART.

MAID of Athens, ere we part,  
Give, oh, give me back my heart !  
Or, since that has left my breast,  
Keep it now, and take the rest !

Hear my vow before I go.

*Ζών μου σὺς ἀγαπῶ.*

By those tresses unconfined,  
Woody by each Ægean wind ;  
By those lids whose jetty fringe  
Kiss thy soft cheeks' blooming tinge ;  
By those wild eyes like the roe,  
*Ζών μου σὺς ἀγαπῶ.*

By that lip I long to taste ;  
By that zone-encircled waist ;  
By all the token-flowers that tell  
What words can never speak so well ;  
By love's alternate joy and woe,  
*Ζών μου σὺς ἀγαπῶ.*

Maid of Athens ! I am gone :  
Think of me, sweet ! when alone.  
Though I fly to Istambol,  
Athens holds my heart and soul :  
Can I cease to love thee ? No !  
*Ζών μου σὺς ἀγαπῶ.*

~~~~~  
LINES WRITTEN BENEATH A
PICTURE.

DEAR object of defeated care !
Though now of love and thee bereft,
To reconcile me with despair,
Thine image and my tears are left.
'Tis said with Sorrow Time can cope ;
But this I feel can ne'er be true ;
For by the death-blow of my Hope
My Memory immortal grew.

~~~~~  
BRIGHT BE THE PLACE OF  
THY SOUL.

BRIGHT be the place of thy soul !  
No lovelier spirit than thine  
E'er burst from its mortal control,  
In the orbs of the blessed to shine.

On earth thou wert all but divine,  
As thy soul shall immortally be ;  
And our sorrow may cease to repine,  
When we know that thy God is with  
thee.

Light be the turf of thy tomb !  
 May its verdure like emeralds be :  
 There should not be the shadow of gloom  
 In aught that reminds us of thee.

Young flowers and an evergreen tree  
 May spring from the spot of thy rest :  
 But nor cypress nor yew let us see ;  
 For why should we mourn for the  
 blest ?

[PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY. 1792—1822.]

### IANTHE SLEEPING.

*Queen Mab.*

How wonderful is Death,  
 Death and his brother, Sleep !  
 One, pale as yonder waning moon,  
 With lips of lurid blue ;  
 The other, rosy as the morn  
 When throned on ocean's wave,  
 It blushes o'er the world :  
 Yet both so passing wonderful !  
 Hath then the gloomy Power  
 Whose reign is in the tainted sepul-  
 chres  
 Seized on her sinless soul ;  
 Must then that peerless form  
 Which love and admiration cannot view  
 Without a beating heart, those azure  
 veins  
 Which steal like streams along a field of  
 snow,  
 That lovely outline, which is fair  
 As breathing marble, perish ?  
 Must putrefaction's breath  
 Leave nothing of this heavenly sight  
 But loathsomeness and ruin ?  
 Spare nothing but a gloomy theme,  
 On which the lightest heart might mo-  
 ralize ?  
 Or is it only a sweet slumber  
 Stealing o'er sensation,  
 Which the breath of roseate morning  
 Chaseth into darkness ?  
 Will Ianthe wake again,  
 And give that faithful bosom joy  
 Whose sleepless spirit waits to catch  
 Light, life, and rapture, from her  
 smile ?

### THE FAIRY AND IANTHE'S SOUL.

STARS ! your balmiest influence  
 shed !  
 Elements ! your wrath suspend !  
 Sleep, Ocean, in the rocky bounds  
 That circle thy domain !  
 Let not a breath be seen to stir  
 Around yon grass-grown ruin's height,  
 Let even the restless gossamer  
 Sleep on the moveless air !  
 Soul of Ianthe ! thou,  
 Judged alone worthy of the envied  
 boon  
 That waits the good and the sincere ;  
 that waits  
 Those who have struggled, and with re-  
 solute will  
 Vanquished earth's pride and meanness,  
 burst the chains,  
 The icy chains of custom, and have  
 shone  
 The day-stars of their age ;—Soul of  
 Ianthe !  
 Awake ! arise !

Sudden arose  
 Ianthe's Soul ; it stood  
 All beautiful in naked purity,  
 The perfect semblance of its bodily  
 frame.  
 Instinct with inexpressible beauty and  
 grace,  
 Each stain of earthliness  
 Had passed away, it reassumed  
 Its native dignity, and stood  
 Immortal amid ruin.

Upon the couch the body lay,  
 Wrapt in the depth of slumber :  
 Its features were fixed and meaningless,  
 Yet animal life was there,  
 And every organ yet performed  
 Its natural functions ; 'twas a sight  
 Of wonder to behold the body and  
 soul.  
 The self-same lineaments, the same  
 Marks of identity were there ;  
 Yet, oh how different ! One aspires to  
 heav'n,  
 Pants for its sempiternal heritage,

And ever-changing, ever-rising still,  
 Wantons in endless being.  
 The other, for a time the unwilling  
     sport  
 Of circumstance and passion, struggles  
     on ;  
 Fleets through its sad duration rapidly ;  
 Then like a useless and worn-out machine,  
     Rots, perishes, and passes.

### INVOCATION TO NATURE.

EARTH, ocean, air, beloved brotherhood !  
 If our great mother have imbued my soul  
 With aught of natural piety to feel  
 Your love, and recompense the boon  
     with mine ;  
 If dewy morn, and odorous noon, and  
     even,  
 With sunset and its gorgeous ministers,  
 And solemn midnight's tingling silent-  
     ness ;  
 If autumn's hollow sighs in the sere  
     wood,  
 And winter robing with pure snow and  
     crowns  
 Of starry ice the grey grass and bare  
     boughs ;  
 If spring's voluptuous pantings when she  
     breathes  
 Her first sweet kisses, have been dear to  
     me ;  
 If no bright bird, insect, or gentle beast  
 I consciously have injured, but still loved  
 And cherished these my kindred ; then  
     forgive  
 This boast, beloved brethren, and with-  
     draw  
 No portion of your wonted favour now !

### A SOLITARY GRAVE.

On the beach of a northern sea  
 Which tempests shake eternally,  
 As once the wretch there lay to sleep,  
 Lies a solitary heap ;  
 One white skull and seven dry bones,  
 On the margin of the stones,  
 Where a few grey rushes stand,  
 Boundaries of the sea and land :

Nor is heard one voice of wail  
 But the sea-mews, as they sail  
 O'er the billows of the gale ;  
 Or the whirlwind up and down  
 Howling like a slaughtered town.  
 When a king in glory rides  
 Through the pomp of fratricides.  
 Those unburied bones around  
 There is many a mournful sound ;  
 There is no lament for him,  
 Like a sunless vapour, dim,  
 Who once clothed with life and thought  
 What now moves nor murmurs not.

### ODE TO THE WEST WIND.

#### I.

O WILD West Wind, thou breath of  
     Autumn's being,  
 Thou, from whose unseen presence the  
     leaves dead  
 Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter  
     fleeing,

Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic  
     red,  
 Pestilence-stricken multitudes : O thou,  
 Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed

The winged seeds, where they lie cold  
     and low,  
 Each like a corpse within its grave, until  
 Thine azure sister of the spring shall  
     blow

Her clarion o'er the dreaming earth, and  
     fill [air]  
 (Driving sweet birds like flocks to feed in  
 With living hues and odours plain and  
     hill :

Wild Spirit, which art moving every-  
     where ;  
 Destroyer and preserver ; hear, oh hear !

#### II.

Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep  
     sky's commotion,  
 Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves  
     are shed,  
 Shook from the tangled boughs of  
     Heaven and Ocean,

Angels of rain and lightning : there are  
spread

On the blue surface of thine airy surge,  
Like the bright hair uplifted from the  
head

Of some fierce Maenad, even from the  
dim verge

Of the horizon to the zenith's height,  
The locks of the approaching storm.  
Thou dirge

Of the dying year, to which this closing  
night

Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre,  
Vaulted with all thy congregated might

Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere  
Black rain, and fire, and hail, will burst :  
Oh hear !

### III.

Thou who didst waken from his summer  
dreams

The blue Mediterranean, where he lay  
Lulled by the coil of his crystalline  
streams,

Beside a pumice isle in Baiae's bay,  
And saw in sleep old palaces and towers  
Quivering within the wave's intenser day,

All overgrown with azure moss and  
flowers

So sweet, the sense faints picturing them !  
Thou

For whose path the Atlantic's level  
powers

Cleave themselves into chasms, while far  
below

The sea-blooms and the oozy woods  
which wear

The sapless foliage of the ocean, know

Thy voice, and suddenly grow grey with  
fear,

And tremble and despoil themselves :  
Oh hear !

### IV

If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear ;  
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee ;  
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and  
share

The impulse of thy strength, only less  
free

Than thou, O uncontrollable ! If even  
I were as in my boyhood, and could be

The comrade of thy wanderings over  
heaven,

As then, when to outstrip the skiey  
[speed  
Scarce seemed a vision, I would ne'er  
have striven

As thus with thee in prayer in my sore  
need.

Oh ! lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud !  
I fall upon the thorns of life ! I bleed !

A heavy weight of hours has chained and  
bowed

One too like thee : tameless, and swift,  
and proud.

### V.

Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is :  
What if my leaves are falling like its  
own !

The tumult of thy mighty harmonies

Will take from both a deep autumnal  
tone,

Sweet though in sadness. Be thou,  
spirit fierce,

My spirit ! Be thou me, impetuous one !

Drive my dead thoughts over the uni-  
verse [birth ;

Like withered leaves to quicken a new  
And, by the incantation of this verse,

Scatter, as from an unextinguished hearth  
Ashes and sparks, my words among  
mankind !

Be through my lips to unawakened eart

The trumpet, of a prophecy ! O wind,  
If Winter comes, can Spring be far  
behind ?

## TO THE SENSITIVE PLANT.

A SENSITIVE PLANT in a garden grew,  
And the young winds fed it with silver  
dew,  
And it opened its fan-like leaves to the  
light,  
And closed them beneath the kisses of  
night.

And the spring arose on the garden fair,  
And the Spirit of Love fell everywhere ;  
And each flower and herb on Earth's  
dark breast  
Rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.

But none ever trembled and panted with  
bliss  
In the garden, the field, or the wilderness,  
Like a doe in the noontide with love's  
sweet want,  
As the companionless Sensitive Plant.

The snowdrop, and then the violet,  
Arose from the ground with warm rain  
wet,  
And their breath was mixed with fresh  
odour, sent  
From the turf, like the voice and the  
instrument.

Then the pied wind-flowers and the tulip  
tall,  
And narcissi, the fairest among them all,  
Who gaze on their eyes in the stream's  
recess,  
Till they die of their own dear loveliness.

And the naiad-like lily of the vale,  
Whom youth makes so fair and passion  
so pale,  
That the light of its tremulous bells is  
seen  
Through their pavilions of tender green ;

And the hyacinth purple, and white, and  
blue,  
Which flung from its bells sweet peal  
anew  
Of music so delicate, soft and intense,  
It was felt like an odour within the sense ;

And the rose like a nymph to the bath  
address,  
Which unveiled the depth of her glowing  
breast,  
Till, fold after fold, to the fainting air  
The soul of her beauty and love lay bare ;

And the wand-like lily, which lifted up,  
As a Maenad, its moonlight-coloured cup,  
Till the fiery star, which is its eye,  
Gazed through the clear dew on the  
tender sky ;

And the jessamine faint, and the sweet  
tuberose,  
The sweetest flower for scent that blows ;  
And all rare blossoms from every clime  
Grew in that garden in perfect prime.

And on the stream whose inconstant  
bosom  
Was pranked, under boughs of embowering  
blossom,  
With golden and green light, slanting  
through  
Their heaven of many a tangled hue,

Broad water-lilies lay tremulously,  
And starry river-buds glimmered by,  
And around them the soft stream did  
glide and dance  
With a motion of sweet sound and  
radiance.

And the sinuous paths of lawn and of  
moss,  
Which led through the garden along and  
across,  
Some open at once to the sun and the  
breeze,  
Some lost among bowers of blossoming  
trees,

Were all paved with daisies and delicate  
bells,  
As fair as the fabulous asphodels,  
And flowerets which drooping as day  
drooped too,  
Fell into pavilions, white, purple, and  
blue,  
To roof the glow-worm from the evening  
dew.



And from this undefiled Paradise  
The flowers (as an infant's awakening  
eyes

Smile on its mother, whose singing sweet  
Can first lull, and at last must awaken it),

When heaven's blithe winds had un-  
folded them,

As mine-lamps enkindle a hidden gem,  
Shone smiling to heaven, and every one  
Shared joy in the light of the gentle sun ;

For each one was interpenetrated  
With the light and the odour its neigh-  
bour shed,

Like young lovers whom youth and love  
make dear,

Wrapped and filled by their mutual at-  
mosphere.

But the Sensitive Plant, which could give  
small fruit

Of the love which it felt from the leaf to  
the root,

Received more than all, it loved more  
than ever,

Where none wanted but it, could belong  
to the giver—

For the Sensitive Plant has no bright  
flower ;

Radiance and odour are not its dower ;  
It loves, even like Love, its deep heart is  
full,

It desires what it has not, the beautiful !

The light winds, which from unsustaining  
wings

Shed the music of many murmurings ;  
The beams which dart from many a star  
Of the flowers whose hues they bear afar ;

The plumed insects, swift and free,  
Like golden boats on a sunny sea,  
Laden with light and odour, which pass  
Over the gleam of the living grass ;

The unseen clouds of the dew, which lie  
Like fire in the flowers till the sun rides  
high, [spheres,

Then wander like spirits among the  
Each cloud faint with the fragrance it  
bears ;

The quivering vapours of dim noontide,  
Which, like a sea, o'er the warm earth  
glide,

In which every sound, and odour, and  
beam,

Move, as reeds in a single stream ;

Each and all like ministering angels were  
For the Sensitive Plant sweet joy to bear,  
Whilst the lagging hours of the day went  
by

Like windless clouds o'er a tender sky.

And when evening descended from heaven  
above,

And the earth was all rest, and the air  
was all love,

And delight, though less bright, was far  
more deep,

And the day's veil fell from the world of  
sleep,

And the beasts, and the birds, and the  
insects were drowned

In an ocean of dreams without a sound ;  
Whose waves never mark, though they  
ever impress

The light sand which paves it, conscious-  
ness ;

(Only overhead the sweet nightingale  
Ever sang more sweet as the day might  
fail.

And snatches of its elysian chant  
Were mixed with the dreams of the Sen-  
sitive Plant.)

The Sensitive Plant was the earliest  
Up-gathered into the bosom of rest ;  
A sweet child weary of its delight,  
The feeblest, and yet the favourite,  
Cradled within the embrace of night

#### ~~~~~ LOVE'S PHILOSOPHY.

THE fountains mingle with the river,  
And the rivers with the ocean,  
The winds of heaven mix for ever  
With a sweet emotion ;

Nothing in the world is single ;  
All things by a law divine

In one another's being mingle—  
Why not I with thine ?

See the mountains kiss high heaven,  
And the waves clasp one another ;  
No sister flower would be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother :  
And the sunlight clasps the earth,  
And the moonbeams kiss the sea ;—  
What are all these kissings worth,  
If thou kiss not me.

~~~~~  
ADONAIS.

A LAMENT FOR JOHN KEATS.

I.

I WEEP for Adonais—he is dead !
Oh, weep for Adonais ! though our
tears [a head !
Thaw not the frost which binds so dear
And thou, sad Hour, selected from all
years
To mourn our loss, rouse thy obscure
compeers,
And teach them thine own sorrow ;
say : with me
Died Adonais ; till the Future dares
Forget the Past, his fate and fame shall
be
An echo and a light unto eternity !

II.

Where wert thou, mighty Mother,
when he lay,
When thy son lay, pierced by the shaft
which flies
In darkness ? where was lorn Urania
When Adonais died ? With veiled
eyes,
'Mid listening Echoes, in her Paradise
She sate, while one, with soft en-
amoured breath,
Rekindled all the fading melodies,
With which, like flowers that mock the
corse beneath,
He had adorned and hid the coming
bulk of death.

III.

Oh, weep for Adonais—he is dead !
Wake, melancholy Mother, wake and
weep !
Yet wherefore ? Quench within their
burning bed

Thy fiery tears, and let thy loud heart
keep,
Like his, a mute and uncomplaining
sleep ;
For he is gone, where all things wise
and fair
Descend :—oh, dream not that the
amorous Deep
Will yet restore him to the vital air ;
Death feeds on his mute voice, and laughs
at our despair.

IV.

Most musical of mourners, weep again !
Lament anew, Urania !—He died,
Who was the sire of an immortal strain,
Blind, old, and lonely, when his coun-
try's pride ticide,
The priest, the slave, and the liber-
Trampled and mocked with many a
loathed rite
Of lust and blood ; he went, unterrified,
Into the gulf of death ; but his clear
Sprite
Yet reigns o'er earth ; the third among
the sons of light.

V.

Most musical of mourners, weep anew !
Not all to that bright station dared to
climb :
And happier they their happiness who
knew,
Whose tapers yet burn through that
night of time
In which suns perished ; others more
sublime,
Struck by the envious wrath of man or
God,
Have sunk, extinct in their refulgent
prime ; [road
And some yet live, treading the thorny
Which leads, through toil and hate, to
Fame's serene abode.

VI.

But now thy youngest, dearest one, has
perished,
The nursing of thy widowhood, who
grew,
Like a pale flower by some sad maiden
cherished,

And fed with true love tears instead of
dew ;
Most musical of mourners, weep
anew !
Thy extreme hope, the loveliest and
the last,
The bloom, whose petals nipt before
they blew,
Died on the promise of the fruit, is
waste ;
The broken lily lies—the storm is over-
past

~~~~~

### TIME.

UNFATHOMABLE SEA ! whose waves are  
years,  
Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep  
woe  
Are brackish with the salt of human  
tears !  
Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb  
and flow  
Claspest the limits of mortality !  
And sick of prey, yet howling on for  
more,  
Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable  
shore ;  
Treacherous in calm, and terrible in storm,  
Who shall put forth on thee,  
Unfathomable Sea ?

~~~~~

A LAMENT.

O WORLD ! O life ! O time !
On whose last steps I climb,
Trembling at that where I had stood
before ;
When will return the glory of your
prime ?
No more—oh, never more !

Out of the day and night
A joy has taken flight :
Fresh spring, and summer, and win-
ter hoar,
Move my faint heart with grief, but
with delight
No more—oh, never more !

LINES TO A CRITIC.

HONEY from silkworms who can gather,
Or silk from the yellow-bee ?
The grass may grow in winter weather
As soon as hate in me.

* * * * *

A passion like the one I prove
Cannot divided be ;
I hate thy want of truth and love—
How should I then hate thee ?

~~~~~

### ANARCHY SLAIN BY TRUE LIBERTY.

*The Masque of Anarchy*

LAST came Anarchy ; he rode  
On a white horse splashed with blood ;  
He was pale even to the lips,  
Like death in the Apocalypse.

And he wore a kingly crown ;  
In his hand a sceptre shone ;  
On his brow this mark I saw—  
“ I am God, and King, and Law ! ”

With a pace stately and fast,  
Over England land he past,  
Trampling to a mire of blood  
The adoring multitude.

And a mighty troop around,  
With their trampling shook the ground,  
Waving each a bloody sword,  
For the service of their Lord.

And with glorious triumph, they  
Rode through England, proud and gay,  
Drunk as with intoxication  
Of the wine of desolation.

O'er fields and towns, from sea to sea,  
Passed the pageant swift and free,  
Tearing up and trampling down,  
Till they came to London town.

And each dweller, panic-stricken,  
Felt his heart with terror sicken,  
Hearing the tremendous cry  
Of the triumph of Anarchy.

For with pomp to meet him came,  
Clothed in arms like blood and flame,

The hired murderers who did sing,  
'Thou art God, and Law, and King.

"We have waited, weak and lone,  
For thy coming, Mighty One!  
Our purses are empty, our swords are  
cold,  
Give us glory, and blood, and gold."

Lawyers and priests, a motley crowd,  
To the earth their pale brows bowed,  
Like a bad prayer not over loud,  
Whispering—"Thou art Law and God."

Then all cried with one accord,  
"Thou art King, and Law, and Lord;  
Anarchy to thee we bow,  
Be thy name made holy now!"

And Anarchy, the skeleton,  
Bowed and grinned to every one,  
As well as if his education  
Had cost ten millions to the nation.

For he knew the palaces  
Of our kings were nightly his;  
His the sceptre, crown, and globe,  
And the gold-inwoven robe.

So he sent his slaves before  
To seize upon the Bank and Tower,  
And was proceeding with intent  
To meet his pensioned parliament,

When one fled past, a maniac maid,  
And her name was Hope, she said:  
But she looked more like Despair;  
And she cried out in the air:

"My father, Time, is weak and grey  
With waiting for a better day;  
See how idiot like he stands,  
Trembling with his palsied hands!

"He has had child after child,  
And the dust of death is piled  
Over every one but me—  
Misery! oh, misery!"

Then she lay down in the street,  
Right before the horses' feet,  
Expecting, with a patient eye,  
Murder, Fraud, and Anarchy.

When between her and her foes  
A mist, a light, an image rose,  
Small at first, and weak and frail  
Like the vapour of the vale:

Till as clouds grow on the blast,  
Like tower-crowned giants striding fast,  
And glare with lightnings as they fly,  
And speak in thunder to the sky,

It grew—a shape arrayed in mail  
Brighter than the viper's scale,  
And upborne on wings whose grain  
Was like the light of sunny rain.

On its helm, seen far away,  
A planet, like the morning's, lay;  
And those plumes it light rained through,  
Like a shower of crimson dew.

With step as soft as wind it passed  
O'er the heads of men—so fast  
That they knew the presence there,  
And looked—and all was empty air.

As flowers beneath May's footsteps waken,  
As stars from night's loose hair are  
shaken,  
As waves arise when loud winds call,  
Thoughts sprung where'er that step did  
fall.

And the prostrate multitude  
Looked—and ankle-deep in blood,  
Hope, that maiden most serene,  
Was walking with a quiet mien:

And Anarchy, the ghastly birth,  
Lay dead earth upon the earth;  
The Horse of Death, tameless as wind,  
Fled, and with his hoofs did grind  
To dust the murderers thronged behind.

#### THE CLOUD.

I BRING fresh showers for the thirsting  
flowers,  
From the sea and the streams;  
I bear light shade for the leaves when  
laid  
In their noon-day dreams.

From my wings are shaken the dews that  
waken

The sweet birds every one,  
When rocked to rest on their mother's  
breast

As she dances about the sun.

I wield the flail of the lashing hail,  
And whiten the green plains under,  
And then again I dissolve it in rain,  
And laugh as I pass in thunder.

I sift the snow on the mountains below,  
And their great pines groan aghast ;  
And all the night 'tis my pillow white,  
While I sleep in the arms of the blast.  
Sublime on the towers of my skiey  
bowers,

Lightning my pilot sits,  
In a cavern under is fettered the thunder,  
It struggles and howls at fits ;  
Over earth and ocean, with gentle motion,  
This pilot is guiding me,  
Lured by the love of the genii that  
move

In the depths of the purple sea ;  
Over the rills, and the crags, and the  
hills,

Over the lakes and the plains,  
Wherever he dream, under mountain or  
stream,

The Spirit he loves remains ;  
And I all the while bask in heaven's blue  
smile,  
Whilst he is dissolving in rains.

The sanguine sunrise, with his meteor  
eyes,

And his burning plumes outspread,  
Leaps on the back of my sailing rack,  
When the morning star shines dead.

As on the jag of a mountain crag,  
Which an earthquake rocks and swings,  
An eagle alit one moment may sit  
In the light of its golden wings.

And when sunset may breathe, from the  
lit sea beneath,

Its ardours of rest and of love,  
And the crimson pall of eve may fall

From the depth of heaven above,  
With wings folded I rest, on mine airy  
nest,  
As still as a brooding dove.

That orb'd maiden with white fire laden,  
Whom mortals call the moon,  
Glides glimmering o'er my fleece-like  
floor,

By the midnight breezes strewn ;  
And wherever the beat of her unseen  
feet,

Which only the angels hear,  
May have broken the woof of my tent's  
thin roof,

The stars peep behind her and peer ;  
And I laugh to see them whirl and flee,  
Like a swarm of golden bees,  
When I widen the rent in my wind-built  
tent,

Till the calm rivers, lakes, and seas,  
Like strips of the sky fallen through me  
on high,  
Are each paved with the moon and  
these.

I bind the sun's throne with a burning  
zone,

And the moon's with a girdle of pearl ;  
The volcanoes are dim, and the stars reel  
and swim,

When the whirlwinds my banner un-  
furl.

From cape to cape, with a bridge-like  
shape,

Over a torrent sea,  
Sunbeam-proof, I hang like a roof,  
The mountains its columns be.

The triumphal arch through which I  
march

With hurricane, fire, and snow,  
When the powers of the air are chained  
to my chair,

Is the million-coloured bow ;  
The sphere-fire above its soft colours  
wove,

While the moist earth was laughing  
below.

I am the daughter of earth and water,  
And the nursing of the sky ;

I pass through the pores of the ocean and  
shores ;

I change, but I cannot die.  
For after the rain when with never a  
stain

The pavilion of heaven is bare,

And the winds and sunbeams with their  
convex gleams,  
Build up the blue dome of air,  
I silently laugh at my own cenotaph,  
And out of the caverns of rain,  
Like a child from the womb, like a ghost  
from the tomb,  
I arise and unbuild it again.

~~~~~  
TO A SKYLARK.

HAIL to thee, blithe spirit !
Bird thou never wert,
That from heaven, or near it,
Pourest thy full heart
In profuse strains of unpremeditated art.

Higher still and higher,
From the earth thou springest,
Like a cloud of fire ;
The blue deep thou wingest,
And singing still dost soar, and soaring
ever singest.

In the golden lightning
Of the sunken sun,
O'er which clouds are brightening,
Thou dost float and run ;
Like an unbodied joy whose race is just
begun.

The pale purple even
Melts around thy flight ;
Like a star of heaven,
In the broad day-light
Thou art unseen, but yet I hear thy shrill
delight.

Keen as are the arrows
Of that silver sphere,
Whose intense lamp narrows
In the white dawn clear,
Until we hardly see, we feel that it is
there.

All the earth and air
With thy voice is loud,
As, when night is bare,
From one lonely cloud
The moon rains out her beams, and
heaven is overflowed.

What thou art we know not ;
What is most like thee ?
From rainbow clouds there flow not
Drops so bright to see,
As from thy presence showers a rain of
melody.

Like a poet hidden,
In the light of thought,
Singing hymns unbidden,
Till the world is wrought
To sympathy with hopes and fears it
heeded not :

Like a high-born maiden
In a palace tower,
Soothing her love-laden
Soul in secret hour
With music sweet as love, which over-
flows her bower :

Like a glow worm golden
In a dell of dew,
Scattering unbidden
Its aerial hue
Among the flowers and grass which screen
it from the view :

Like a rose embowered
In its own green leaves,
By warm winds deflowered,
Till the scent it gives
Makes faint with too much sweet these
heavy-winged thieves :

Sound of vernal showers
On the twinkling grass,
Rain-awakened flowers,
All that ever was
Joyous, and clear, and fresh, thy music
doth surpass :

Teach us, sprite or bird,
What sweet thoughts are thine ;
I have never heard
Praise of love or wine
That painted forth a flood of rapture so
divine.

Chorus hymeneal,
Or triumphal chaunt,
Matched with thine would be all

But an empty vaunt,—
A thing wherein we feel there is some
hidden want.

What objects are the fountains
Of thy happy strain?
What fields, or waves, or mountains?
What shapes of sky or plain?
What love of thine own kind? What
ignorance of pain?

With thy clear keen joyance
Languor cannot be:
Shadow of annoyance
Never came near thee;
Thou lovest; but ne'er knew love's sad
satiety.

Waking or asleep,
Thou of death must deem
Things more true and deep
Than we mortals dream,
Or how could thy notes flow in such a
crystal stream?

We look before and after,
And pine for what is not;
Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of
saddest thought.

Yet if we could scorn
Hate, and pride, and fear;
If we were things born
Not to shed a tear,
I know not how thy joy we ever could
come near.

Better than all measures
Of delight and sound,
Better than all treasures
That in books are found,
Thy skill to poet were, thou scorner of
the ground.

Teach me half the gladness
That thy brain must know,
Such harmonious madness
From my lips would flow,
The world should listen then, as I am
listening now.

I ARISE FROM DREAMS OF THEE.

I ARISE from dreams of thee,
In the first sweet sleep of night,
When the winds are breathing low,
And the stars are shining bright;
I arise from dreams of thee,
And a spirit in my feet
Has led me—who knows how?
To thy chamber-window, Sweet!

The wandering airs they faint
On the dark, the silent stream,—
The champetre odours fail,
Like sweet thoughts in a dream.
The nightingale's complaint
It dies upon her heart,
As I must die on thine,
O beloved as thou art!

O lift me from the grass!
I die, I faint, I fail.
Let thy love in kisses rain
On my lips and eyelids pale.
My cheek is cold and white, alas!
My heart beats loud and fast.
Oh! press it close to thine again,
Where it will break at last.

[SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE. 1772—1832.]

DEAD CALM IN THE TROPICS.

The Ancient Mariner.

THE fair breeze blew, the white foam flew
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea.

Down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt
down,
'Twas sad as sad could be;
And we did speak only to break
The silence of the sea!

All in a hot and copper sky,
The bloody Sun, at noon,
Right up above the mast did stand,
No bigger than the Moon.

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion ;
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted ocean.

Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink ;
Water, water, everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink.

The very deep did rot : O Christ !
That ever this should be !
Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
Upon the slimy sea.

THE ANCIENT MARINER AMONG THE DEAD BODIES OF THE SAILORS.

ALONE, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide wide sea !
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.

The many men, so beautiful !
And they all dead did lie :
And a thousand thousand slimy things
Lived on ; and so did I.

I looked upon the rotting sea,
And drew my eyes away ;
I looked upon the rotting deck,
And there the dead men lay.

I looked to heaven, and tried to pray ;
But or ever a prayer had gusht,
A wicked whisper came, and made
My heart as dry as dust.

I closed my eyes and kept them close,
And the balls like pulses beat ;
For the sky and the sea, and the sea and
the sky,
Lay like a load on my weary eye,
And the dead were at my feet.

The cold sweat melted from their limbs,
Nor rot nor reck did they :
The look with which they looked on me
Had never passed away.

An orphan's curse would drag to hell
A spirit from on high ;
But oh ! more horrible than that
Is the curse in a dead man's eye !
Seven days, seven nights, I saw that
curse,
And yet I could not die.

THE ANCIENT MARINER FINDS A VOICE TO BLESS AND PRAY.

BEYOND the shadow of the ship,
I watched the water-snakes :
They moved in tracks of shining white,
And when they reared, the elfish light
Fell off in hoary flakes.

Within the shadow of the ship
I watched their rich attire :
Blue, glossy green, and velvet black,
They coiled and swam ; and every track
Was a flash of golden fire.

O happy living things ! no tongue
Their beauty might declare :
A spring of love gushed from my heart,
And I blessed them unaware :
Sure my kind saint took pity on me,
And I blessed them unaware.

The selfsame moment I could pray ;
And from my neck so free
The Albatross fell off, and sank
Like lead into the sea.

THE BREEZE AFTER THE CALM

OH sleep ! it is a gentle thing,
Beloved from pole to pole !
To Mary Queen the praise be given !
She sent the gentle sleep from Heaven,
That slid into my soul.

The silly buckets on the deck,
That had so long remained,
I dreamt that they were filled with dew ;
And when I woke, it rained.

My lips were wet, my throat was cold,
My garments all were dank;
Sure I had drunken in my dreams,
And still my body drank.

I moved, and could not feel my limbs :
I was so light—almost
I thought that I had died in sleep,
And was a blessed ghost.

And soon I heard a roaring wind :
It did not come anear ;
But with its sound it shook the sails,
That were so thin and sere.

The upper air burst into life !
And a hundred fire-flags sheen,
To and fro they were hurried about !
And to and fro, and in and out,
The wan stars danced between.

And the coming wind did roar more loud,
And the sails did sigh like sedge ;
And the rain poured down from one black
cloud ;
The Moon was at its edge.

The thick black cloud was cleft, and still
The Moon was at its side :
Like waters shot from some high crag,
The lightning fell with never a jag,
A river steep and wide.

THE BEST PRAYER.

HE prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small ;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

CHRISTABEL AND THE LADY GERALDINE.

Christabel.

THE night is chill, the cloud is gray :
'Tis a month before the month of May,
And the Spring comes slowly up this
way.

The lovely lady, Christabel,
Whom her father loves so well,
What makes her in the wood so late,
A furlong from the castle gate ?
She had dreams all yesternight
Of her own betrothed knight ;
And she in the midnight wood will pray
For the weal of her lover that's far away.

She stole along, she nothing spoke,
The sighs she heaved were soft and low,
And naught was green upon the oak,
But moss and rarest mistletoe :
She kneels beneath the huge oak tree,
And in silence prayeth she.

The lady sprang up suddenly,
The lovely lady, Christabel !
It moaned as near, as near can be,
But what it is, she cannot tell.—
On the other side it seems to be,
Of the huge, broad-breasted, old oak
tree.

The night is chill ; the forest bare ;
Is it in the wind that moaneth bleak ?
There is not wind enough in the air
To move away the ringlet curl
From the lovely lady's cheek—
There is not wind enough to twirl
The one red leaf, the last of its clan,
That dances as often as dance it can,
Hanging so light, and hanging so high,
On the topmost twig that looks up at the
sky.

Hush, beating heart of Christabel !
Jesu, Maria, shield her well !
She folded her arms beneath her cloak,
And stole to the other side of the oak.
What sees she there ?

There she sees a damsel bright,
Drest in a silken robe of white,
That shadowy in the moonlight shone ;
The neck that made that white robe wan,
Her stately neck, and arms were bare ;
Her blue-veined feet unsandaled were,
And wildly glittered here and there
The gems entangled in her hair.
I guess, 'twas frightful there to see
A lady so richly clad as she—
Beautiful exceedingly !

"Mary mother, save me now!"
(Said Christabel,) "And who art thou?"

The lady strange made answer meet,
And her voice was faint and sweet:—
"Have pity on my sore distress,
I scarce can speak for weariness:"
"Stretch forth thy hand, and have no
fear!"

Said Christabel, "How camest thou here?"
And the lady, whose voice was faint and
sweet,
Did thus pursue her answer meet:—

"My sire is of a noble line,
And my name is Geraldine:
Five warriors seized me yesternorn,
Me, even me, a maid forlorn:
They choked my cries with force and fright,
And tied me on a palfrey white.
The palfrey was as fleet as wind,
And they rode furiously behind.
They spurred amain, their steeds were
white:

And once we crossed the shade of night.
As sure as Heaven shall rescue me,
I have no thought what men they be;
Nor do I know how long it is
(For I have lain entranced, I wis)
Since one, the tallest of the five,
Took me from the palfrey's back,
A weary woman, scarce alive.
Some muttered words his comrade spoke:
He placed me underneath this oak;
He swore they would return with haste,
Whither they went I cannot tell—
I thought I heard, some minutes past,
Sounds as of a castle bell.
Stretch forth thy hand (thus ended she)
And help a wretched maid to flee."

Then Christabel stretched forth her hand
And comforted fair Geraldine:
"O well, bright dame! may you command
The service of Sir Leoline;
And gladly our stout chivalry
Will he send forth and friends withal
To guide and guard you safe and free
Home to your noble father's hall."

She rose: and forth with steps they
passed
That strove to be, and were not, fast.

Her gracious stars the lady blest,
And thus spake on sweet Christabel:
"All our household are at rest,
The hall as silent as the cell;
Sir Leoline is weak in health,
And may not well awakened be,
But we will move as if in stealth,
And I beseech your courtesy,
This night, to share your couch with me."

They crossed the moat, and Christabel
Took the key that fitted well;
A little door she opened straight,
All in the middle of the gate;
The gate that was ironed within and
without,
Where an army in battle array had
marched out.
The lady sank, belike through pain,
And Christabel with might and main
Lifted her up, a weary weight,
Over the threshold of the gate:
Then the lady rose again,
And moved, as she were not in pain.

So free from danger, free from fear,
They crossed the court: right glad they
were.
And Christabel devoutly cried
To the Lady by her side;
"Praise we the Virgin all divine
Who hath rescued thee from thy distress!"
"Alas, alas!" said Geraldine,
"I cannot speak for weariness."
So free from danger, free from fear,
They crossed the court: right glad they
were.

Outside her kennel the mastiff old
Lay fast asleep, in moonshine cold.
The mastiff old did not awake,
Yet she an angry moan did make!
And what can ail the mastiff bitch?
Never till now she uttered yell
Beneath the eye of Christabel.
Perhaps it is the owl's scritch:—
Or what can ail the mastiff bitch?

They passed the hall, that echoes still,
Pass as lightly as they will!
The brands were flat, the brands were
dying,
Amid their own white ashes lying;

But when the lady passed, there came
A tongue of light, a fit of flame ;
And Christabel saw the lady's eye,
And nothing else saw she thereby,
Save the boss of the shield of Sir Leoline
tall,
Which hung in a murky old niche in the
wall.
"O softly tread," said Christabel,
"My father seldom sleepeth well."

Sweet Christabel her feet doth bare,
And, jealous of the listening air,
They steal their way from stair to stair,
Now in glimmer, and now in gloom,
And now they pass the Baron's room,
As still as death with stifled breath !
And now have reached her chamber door ;
And now doth Geraldine press down
The rushes of the chamber floor.

The moon shines dim in the open air,
And not a moonbeam enters here.
But they without its light can see
The chamber carved so curiously,
Carved with figures strange and sweet,
All made out of the carver's brain,
For a lady's chamber meet :
The lamp with twofold silver chain
Is fastened to an angel's feet.
The silver lamp burns dead and dim ;
But Christabel the lamp will trim.
She trimmed the lamp, and made it
bright,
And left it swinging to and fro,
While Geraldine, in wretched plight,
Sank down upon the floor below.

"O weary lady Geraldine,
I pray you, drink this cordial wine !
It is a wine of virtuous powers ;
My mother made it of wild flowers."

"And will your mother pity me,
Who am a maiden most forlorn ?"
Christabel answered—"Woe is me !
She died the hour that I was born.
I have heard the gray-haired friar tell,
How on her death-bed she did say,
That she should hear the castle-bell
strike twelve upon my wedding-day.

O mother dear ! that thou wert here !"
"I would," said Geraldine, "she were !"
But soon with altered voice, said she—
"Off, wandering mother ! Peak and
pine !
I have power to bid thee flee."
Alas ! what ails poor Geraldine ?
Why stares she with unsettled eye ?
Can she the bodiless dead espy ?
And why with hollow voice cries she,
"Off, woman, off ! this hour is mine—
Though thou her guardian spirit be,
Off, woman, off ! 'tis given to me."

Then Christabel knelt by the lady's
side,
And raised to heaven her eyes so blue—
"Alas !" said she, "this ghastly ride—
Dear lady ! it hath wildered you !"
The lady wiped her moist cold brow,
And faintly said, "'tis over now !"

Again the wild-flower wine she drank
Her fair large eyes 'gan glitter bright,
And from the floor whereon she sank,
The lotty lady stood upright ;
She was most beautiful to see,
Like a lady of a far countrée.

And thus the lofty lady spake—
"All they, who live in the upper sky,
Do love you, holy Christabel !
And you love them, and for their sake
And for the good which me befell,
Even I in my degree will try,
Fair maiden, to requite you well.
But now unrobe yourself ; for I
Must pray, ere yet in bed I lie."

Quoth Christabel, "so let it be !"
And as the lady bade, did she.
Her gentle limbs did she undress,
And lay down in her loveliness.

But through her brain of weal and
woe
So many thoughts moved to and fro,
That vain it were her lids to close ;
So half-way from the bed she rose
And on her elbow did recline
To look at the lady Geraldine.

SEVERED FRIENDSHIP.

Christabel.

ALAS ! they had been friends in youth ;
 But whispering tongues can poison truth ;
 And constancy lives in realms above ;
 And life is thorny ; and youth is vain ;
 And to be wroth with one we love,
 Doth work like madness in the brain.
 And thus it chanced, as I divine,
 With Roland and Sir Leoline.
 Each spake words of high disdain
 And insult to his heart's best brother :
 They parted—ne'er to meet again !
 But never either found another
 To free the hollow heart from paining—
 They stood aloof, the scars remaining,
 Like cliffs which had been rent asunder ;
 A dreary sea now flows between ;—
 But neither heat, nor frost, nor thunder,
 Shall wholly do away, I ween,
 The marks of that which once hath been.

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YOUTH AND AGE.

VERSE, a breeze 'mid blossoms straying,  
 Where Hope clung feeding, like a bee—  
 Both were mine ! Life went a-maying  
 With Nature, Hope, and Poesy,  
 When I was young !  
 When I was young?—Ah, woful when !  
 Ah ! for the change 'twixt Now and  
 Then !  
 This breathing house not built with  
 hands,  
 This body that does me grievous wrong,  
 O'er airy cliffs and glittering sands,  
 How lightly then it flashed along :—  
 Like those trim skiffs, unknown of yore,  
 On winding lakes and rivers wide,  
 That ask no aid of sail or oar,  
 That fear no spite of wind or tide .  
 Nought cared this body for wind and  
 weather,  
 When Youth and I lived in 't together.

Flowers are lovely ; love is flower-like ;  
 Friendship is a sheltering tree ;  
 O ! the joys that came down shower-like  
 Of Friendship, Love, and Liberty,  
 Ere I was old !

Ere I was old ? Ah woful ere,  
 Which tells me, Youth's no longer here !  
 O Youth ! for years so many and sweet,  
 'Tis known that thou and I were one ;  
 I'll think it but a fond conceit—  
 It cannot be that thou art gone !  
 Thy vesper-bell hath not yet tolled :  
 And thou wert aye a masker bold !  
 What strange disguise hast now put on,  
 To make believe that thou art gone ?  
 I see these locks in silvery slips,  
 This drooping gait, this altered size :  
 But spring-tide blossoms on thy lips,  
 And tears take sunshine from thine eyes !  
 Life is but thought : so think I will  
 That Youth and I are house-mates still.

Dew-drops are the gems of morning,  
 But the tears of mournful eve !  
 Where no hope is, life's a warning  
 That only serves to make us grieve,  
 When we are old :  
 That only serves to make us grieve  
 With oft and tedious taking leave,  
 Like some poor nigh-related guest,  
 That may not rudely be dismissed,  
 Yet hath outstayed his welcome while,  
 And tells the jest without the smile.

~~~~~  
HYMN BEFORE SUN-RISE, IN
THE VALE OF CHAMOUNI.

HAST thou a charm to stay the morning
 star
 In his steep course ? So long he seems to
 pause
 On thy bald awful head, O sovran Blanc !
 The Arvè and Arveiron at thy base
 Rave ceaselessly ; but thou, most awful
 Form !
 Riest from forth thy silent sea of pines,
 How silently ! Around thee and above
 Deep is the air, and dark, substantial,
 black,
 An ebon mass : methinks thou piercest it
 As with a wedge ! But when I look
 again,
 It is thine own calm home, thy crystal
 shrine,
 Thy habitation from eternity !
 O dread and silent Mount ! I gazed upon
 thee,

Thou too again, stupendous Mountain !
 thou [low
 That as I raise my head, awhile bowed
 In adoration, upward from thy base
 Slow travelling with dim eyes suffused
 with tears,
 Solemnly seemest like a vapoury cloud
 To rise before me—Rise, oh, ever rise,
 Rise like a cloud of incense from the
 Earth ! [hills,
 Thou kingly Spirit throned among the
 Thou dread ambassador from Earth to
 Heaven
 Great hierarch ! tell thou the silent sky,
 And tell the stars, and tell yon rising sun,
 Earth, with her thousand voices, praises
 God.

DOMESTIC PEACE.

TELL me, on what holy ground
 May Domestic Peace be found ?
 Halcyon Daughter of the skies,
 Far on fearful wings she flies,
 From the pomp of sceptred state,
 From the rebel's noisy hate
 In a cottaged vale she dwells,
 Listening to the Sabbath bells !
 Still around her steps are seen
 Spotless Honour's meeker mien,
 Love, the sire of pleasing fears,
 Sorrow smiling through her tears,
 And, conscious of the past employ,
 Memory, bosom-spring of joy

GENEVIEVE.

MAID of my love, sweet Genevieve !
 In beauty's light you glide along :
 Your eye is like the star of eve,
 And sweet your voice as seraph's song.
 Yet not your heavenly beauty gives
 This heart with passion soft to glow :
 Within your soul a voice there lives !
 It bids you hear the tale of woe :
 When sinking low, the sufferer wan
 Beholds no hand outstretched to save,
 Far as the bosom of the swan
 That rises graceful o'er the wave,
 I've seen your breast with pity heave,
 And therefore love I you, sweet Gene-
 vieve !

THE HAPPY HUSBAND.

OFt, oft methinks, the while with thee
 I breathe, as from the heart, thy dear
 And dedicated name, I hear
 A promise and a mystery,
 A pledge of more than passing life,
 Yea, in that very name of wife !

A pulse of love, that ne'er can sleep !
 A feeling that upbraids the heart
 With happiness beyond desert,
 That gladness half requests to weep !
 Nor bless I not the keener sense
 And unalarming turbulence

Of transient joys that ask no sting
 From jealous fears, or coy denying ;
 But born beneath love's brooding wing
 And into tenderness soon dying,
 Wheel out their giddy moment, then
 Resign the soul to love again.

A more precipitated tear
 Of notes, that eddy in the flow
 Of smoothest song, they come, they go,
 And leave their sweeter under strain
 Its own sweet self—a love of thee
 That seems, yet cannot greater be !

A DAY DREAM.

My eyes make pictures when they're
 shut :—

I see a fountain large and fair,
 A willow and a ruined hut,
 And thee, and me, and Mary there.
 O Mary ! make thy gentle lap our pillow !
 Bend o'er us like a bower, my beautiful
 green willow !

A wild rose roofs the ruined shed,
 And that and summer will agree ;
 And lo ! where Mary leans her head
 Two dear names carved upon the tree
 And Mary's tears, they are not tears of
 sorrow :
 Our sister and our friends will both be
 here to-morrow.

"Twas day! But now, few, large, and bright,

The stars are round the crescent moon!
And now it is a dark, warm night,
The balmiest of the month of June.

A glow-worm fallen, and on the marge
remounting
Shines, and its shadow shines, fit stars
for our sweet fountain!

Oh, ever, ever be thou blest!

For dearly, Nora, love I thee!
This brooding warmth across my breast,
This depth of tranquil bliss—ah, me!
Fount, tree, and shed are gone—I know
not whither;
But in one quiet room, we three are still
together.

The shadows dance upon the wall,
By the still-dancing fire-flames made;
And now they slumber, moveless all!
And now they melt to one deep shade!
But not from me shall this mild darkness
steal thee:
I dream thee with mine eyes, and at my
heart I feel thee.

Thine eyelash on my cheek doth play;
'Tis Mary's hand upon my brow!
But let me check this tender lay,
Which none may hear but she and
thou!
Like the still hive at quiet midnight
humming,
Murmur it to yourselves, ye two beloved
women!

KUBLA KHAN; OR, A VISION IN A DREAM.

A FRAGMENT.

In the summer of the year 1797, the author, then in ill health, had retired to a lonely farmhouse between Porlock and Linton, on the Exmoor confines of Somerset and Devonshire. In consequence of a slight indisposition an anodyne had been prescribed, from the effect of which he fell asleep in his chair at the moment he was reading the following sentence, or words of the same substance, in "Purchas's Pilgrimage":—"Here the Khan Kubla commanded a palace to be built, and a stately garden thereunto; and thus ten miles of fertile ground were inclosed

with a wall." The author continued for about three hours in a profound sleep, at least of the external senses, during which time he has the most vivid confidence that he could not have composed less than from two to three hundred lines; if that indeed can be called composition in which all the images rose up before him as things, with a parallel production of the correspondent expressions, without any sensation or consciousness of effort. On awaking he appeared to himself to have a distinct recollection of the whole, and taking his pen, ink, and paper, instantly and eagerly wrote down the lines that are here preserved. At this moment he was unfortunately called out by a person on business from Porlock, and detained by him above an hour, and on his return to his room, found, to his no small surprise and mortification, that though he still retained some vague and dim recollection of the general purport of the vision, yet, with the exception of some eight or ten scattered lines and images, all the rest had passed away like the images on the surface of a stream into which a stone had been cast, but, alas! without the after restoration of the latter.

Then all the charm
Is broken—all that phantom-world so fair
Vanishes, and a thousand circlets spread,
And each mis-shape the other. Stay awhile,
Poor youth! who scarcely dar'st lift up thine
eyes—
The stream will soon renew its smoothness, soon
The visions will return! And lo! he stays,
And soon the fragments dim of lovely forms
Come trembling back, unite, and now once more
The pool becomes a mirror.

Yet, from the still surviving recollections in his mind, the author has frequently purposed to finish for himself what had been originally, as it were, given to him. *Adieu adieu*: but the tomorrow is yet to come.

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree:
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.

So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled
round:
And there were gardens bright with
sinuous rills
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing
tree;
And here were forests ancient as the hills,
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.

But oh! that deep romantic chasm which
slanted
Down the green hill athwart a cedarn
cover!

A savage place ! as holy and enchanted
 As e'er beneath a waning moon was
 haunted
 By woman wailing for her demon-lover !
 And from this chasm, with ceaseless
 turmoil seething,
 As if this earth in fast thick pants were
 breathing,
 A mighty fountain momentarily was forced ;
 Amid whose swift half-intermitted burst
 Huge fragments vaulted like rebounding
 hail,
 Or chaffy grain beneath the thresher's
 flail :
 And 'mid these dancing rocks at once and
 ever
 It flung up momentarily the sacred river.
 Five miles meandering with a mazy
 motion
 Through wood and dale the sacred river
 ran,
 Then reached the caverns measureless to
 man,
 And sank in tumult to a lifeless ocean :
 And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from
 far
 Ancestral voices prophesying war !

The shadow of the dome of plea-
 sure
 Floated midway on the waves ;
 Where was heard the mingled
 measure
 From the fountain and the caves,
 It was a miracle of rare device,
 A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of
 ice !

A damsel with a dulcimer
 In a vision once I saw :
 It was an Abyssinian maid,
 And on her dulcimer she played,
 Singing of Mount Abora.
 Could I revive within me
 Her symphony and song,
 To such a deep delight 'twould win
 me,

That with music loud and long,
 I would build that dome in air,
 That sunny dome ! those caves of ice !
 And all who heard should see them
 there,
 And all should cry, Beware ! Beware !
 His flashing eyes, his floating hair !

Weave a circle round him thrice,
 And close your eyes with holy dread,
 For he on honey-dew hath fed,
 And drunk the milk of Paradise.

[SIR WILLIAM JONES. 1746—1794.]

THE IDEAL OF A STATE.

WHAT constitutes a state ?
 Not high-raised battlement or laboured
 mound,
 Thick wall, or moated gate ;
 Not cities proud, with spires and turrets
 crowned ;
 Not bays and broad-armed ports,
 Where, laughing at the storm, rich navies
 ride ;
 Not starred and spangled courts,
 Where low-born baseness wafts perfume
 to pride :
 No—men, high-minded men,
 With powers as far above dull brutes en-
 dued,
 In forest, brake, or den,
 As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles
 rude ;
 Men, who their duties know,
 But know their rights, and, knowing,
 dare maintain ;
 Prevent the long-aimed blow,
 And crush the tyrant, while they rend the
 chain ;
 These constitute a state ;
 And sovereign Law, that with collected
 will
 O'er thrones and globes elate,
 Sits empress, crowning good, repressing
 ill.
 Smit by her sacred frown
 The fiend Dissension like a vapour sinks ;
 And e'en the all-dazzling Crown
 Hides his faint rays, and at her bidding
 shrinks.

[THOMAS CAMPBELL. 1777—1844.]

HOPE.

PRIMEVAL Hope, the Aonian Muses say,
 When Man and Nature mourned their
 first decay,

When every form of Death and every woe
Shot from malignant stars to Earth below,
When Murder bared her arm, and rampant
War

Yoked the red dragons of her iron car,
When Peace and Mercy, banished from
the plain,

Sprung on the viewless winds to Heaven
again;

All, all forsook the friendless guilty mind.
But, Hope, the charmer, lingered still
behind.

THE FINAL TRIUMPH OF HOPE.

ETERNAL Hope! when yonder spheres
sublime

Pealed their first notes to sound the march
of time,

Their joyous youth began—but not to
fade.—

When all the sister planets have decayed;
When rapt in fire the realms of ether
glow,

And Heaven's last thunder shakes the
world below;

Thou, undismayed, shalt o'er the ruins
smile,

And light thy torch at Nature's funeral
pile!

THE LAST MAN.

ALL worldly shapes shall melt in gloom,

The sun himself must die,

Before this mortal shall assume

Its immortality!

I saw a vision in my sleep

That gave my spirit strength to sweep

Adown the gulf of Time!

I saw the last of human mould,

That shall creation's death behold,

As Adam saw her prime!

The sun's eye had a sickly glare,
The earth with age was wan,

The skeletons of nations were

Around that lonely man!

Some had expired in fight,—the brands

Still rusted in their bony hands;

In plague and famine some!
Earth's cities had no sound nor tread;
And ships were drifting with the dead
To shores where all was dumb!

Yet, prophet-like, that lone one stood,
With dauntless words and high,
That shook the sere leaves from the wood
As if a storm passed by— [sun,

Saying, We are twins in death, proud
Thy face is cold, thy race is run,
'Tis mercy bids thee go;

For thou ten thousand thousand years
Hast seen the tide of human tears,
That shalt no longer flow.

What though beneath thee man put forth

His pomp, his pride, his skill;
And arts that made fire, flood, and earth,

The vassals of his will;—

Yet mourn I not thy parted sway,

Thou dim disrowned king of day:

For all those trophied arts

And triumphs that beneath thee sprang,

Healed not a passion or a pang

Entailed on human hearts.

Go, let oblivion's curtain fall

Upon the stage of men,

Nor with thy rising beams recall

Life's tragedy again.

Its piteous pageants bring not back,

Nor waken flesh upon the rack

Of pain anew to writhe;

Stretched in disease's shapes abhorred,

Or mown in battle by the sword,

Like grass beneath the scythe.

Even I am weary in yon skies

To watch thy fading fire;

Tost of all sunless agonies,

Behold not me expire.

My lips that speak thy dirge of death—

Their rounded gasp and gurgling breath

To see thou shalt not boast.

The eclipse of nature spreads my pall,—

The majesty of darkness shall

Receive my parting ghost!

This spirit shall return to Him

Who gave its heavenly spark;

Yet think not, sun, it shall be dim,

When thou thyself art dark!

No! it shall live again, and shine
In bliss unknown to beams of thine,
By Him recalled to breath,
Who captive led captivity,
Who robbed the grave of victory,—
And took the sting from death!

Go, sun, while mercy holds me up
On nature's awful waste,
To drink this last and bitter cup
Of grief that man shall taste—
Go, tell the night that hides thy face,
Thou saw'st the last of Adam's race,
On earth's sepulchral clod,
The darkening universe defy
To quench his immortality,
Or shake his trust in God!

LORD ULLIN'S DAUGHTER

A CHIEFTAIN to the Highlands bound,
Cries, "Boatman, do not tarry!
And I'll give thee a silver pound
To row us o'er the ferry."

"Now, who be ye would cross Lochgyle,
This dark and stormy water?"

"Oh! I'm the chief of Ulva's isle,
And this Lord Ullin's daughter.

"And fast before her father's men
Three days we've fled together;
For, should he find us in the glen,
My blood would stain the heather.

"His horsemen hard behind us ride,
Should they our steps discover,
Then who will cheer my bonny bride
When they have slain her lover?"

Out spoke the hardy island wight,
"I'll go, my chief—I'm ready:—
It is not for your silver bright;
But for your winsome lady:

"And by my word, the bonny bird
In danger shall not tarry;
So, though the waves are raging white,
I'll row you o'er the ferry."

By thus the storm grew loud apace,
The water-wrath was shrieking;
And in the scowl of heaven each face
Grew dark as they were speaking.

But still as wilder blew the wind,
And as the night grew drearer,
Adown the glen rode armed men,
Their tramping sounded nearer.

"Oh! haste thee, haste!" the lady cries,
"Though tempests round us gather;
I'll meet the raging of the skies,
But not an angry father."

The boat has left a stormy land,
A stormy sea before her,—
When, oh! too strong for human hand,
The tempest gathered o'er her.

And still they rowed amidst the roar
Of waters fast prevailing,
Lord Ullin reached that fatal shore,
His wrath was changed to wailing.

For sore dismayed through storm and
shade,
His child he did discover—
One lovely hand she stretched for aid,
And one was round her lover.

"Come back! come back!" he cried in
grief,

"Across this stormy water;
And I'll forgive your Highland chief,
My daughter!—oh! my daughter!"

'Twas vain the loud waves lashed the
shore,

Return or aid preventing,
The waters wild went o'er his child,
And he was left lamenting

THE LAMENT OF OUTALISSI.

Gertrude of Wyoming.

"AND I could weep," th' Oneyda chief
His descendant wildly thus begun;
"But that I may not stain with grief
The death-song of my father's son!
Or bow his head in woe;
For by my wrongs, and by my wrath!
To-morrow Arcouski's breath

(That fires yon heav'n with storms of death,) Shall light us to the foe :
And we shall share, my Christian boy !
The foeman's blood, the avenger's joy !

"But thee, my flower, whose breath was given
By milder genii o'er the deep,
The spirits of the white man's heaven
Forbid not thee to weep :
Nor will the Christian host,
Nor will thy father's spirit grieve
To see thee, on the battle's eve,
Lamenting take a mournful leave
Of her who loved thee most :
She was the rainbow to thy sight !
Thy sun—thy heaven—of lost delight !

"To-morrow let us do or die !
But when the bolt of death is hurled,
Ah ! whither then with thee to fly,
Shall Outalissi roam the world ?
Seek we thy once loved home ?
The hand is gone that cropt its flowers :
Unheard their clock repeats its hours !
Cold is the hearth within their bow'rs !
And should we thither roam,
Its echoes and its empty tread
Would sound like voices from the dead !

"Or shall we cross yon mountains blue,
Whose streams my kindred nation quaffed ;
And by my side, in battle true,
A thousand warriors drew the shaft ?
Ah ! there, in desolation cold,
The desert serpent dwells alone,
Where grass o'ergrows each mouldering bone,
And stones themselves to ruin grown,
Like me, are death-like old.
Then seek we not their camp—for there
The silence dwells of my despair !

"But hark, the trump !—to-morrow thou
In glory's fires shalt dry thy tears :
Even from the land of shadows now
My father's awful ghost appears,
Amidst the clouds that round us roll ;
He bids my soul for battle thirst—
He bids me dry the last—the first—
The only tears that ever burst

From Outalissi's soul ;
Because I may not stain with grief
The death-song of an Indian chief."

THE SOLDIER'S DREAM.

OUR bugles sang truce—for the night-
cloud had lowered
And the sentinel stars set their watch
in the sky ;
And thousands had sunk on the ground
overpowered,
The weary to sleep, and the wounded
to die.

When reposing that night on my pallet of
straw,
By the wolf-scaring faggot that guarded
the slain, [saw,
At the dead of the night a sweet vision I
And thrice ere the morning I dreamt it
again.

Methought from the battle-field's dreadful
array,
Far, far I had roamed on a desolate
track ; [way
'Twas autumn—and sunshine arose on the
To the home of my fathers, that wel-
comed me back.

I flew to the pleasant fields traversed so
oft
In life's morning march, when my
bosom was young ; [aloft,
I heard my own mountain-goats bleating
And knew the sweet strain that the
corn-reapers sung.

Then pledged we the wine-cup, and
fondly I swore
From my home and my weeping friends
never to part ; [o'er,
My little ones kissed me a thousand times
And my wife sobbed aloud in her full-
ness of heart.

Stay, stay with us—rest, thou art weary
and worn ;
And fain was their war-broken soldier
to stay, [morn,
But sorrow returned with the dawning of
And the voice in my dreaming ear
melted away.

EXILE OF ERIN.

THERE came to the beach a poor Exile of Erin,

The dew on his thin robe was heavy and chill :

For his country he sighed, when at twilight repairing

To wander alone by the wind-beaten hill.

But the day-star attracted his eye's sad devotion,

For it rose o'er his own native isle of the ocean,

Where once, in the fire of his youthful emotion,

He sang the bold anthem of Erin go bragh.

Sad is my fate ! said the heart-broken stranger,

The wild deer and wolf to a covert can flee ;

But I have no refuge from famine and danger, [me.

A home and a country remain not to Never again in the green sunny bowers,

Where my forefathers lived, shall I spend the sweet hours,

Or cover my harp with the wild woven flowers,

And strike to the numbers of Erin go bragh !

Erin my country ! though sad and forsaken,

In dreams I revisit thy sea-beaten shore ;

But alas ! in a fair foreign land I awaken,

And sigh for the friends who can meet me no more !

Oh cruel fate ! wilt thou never replace me

In a mansion of peace—where no perils can chase me ?

Never again, shall my brothers embrace me ?

They died to defend me, or live to deplore !

Where is my cabin-door, fast by the wild wood ?

Sisters and sire ! did ye weep for its fall ?

Where is the mother that looked on my childhood ?

And where is the bosom friend, dearer than all ?

Oh ! my sad heart ! long abandoned by pleasure,

Why did it doat on a fast-fading treasure !

Tears like the rain-drop, may fall without measure,

But rapture and beauty they cannot recall.

Yet all its sad recollection suppressing,

One dying wish my lone bosom can draw :

Erin ! an exile bequeaths thee his blessing !

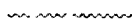
Land of my forefathers ! Erin go bragh !

Buried and cold, when my heart stills her motion,

Green be thy fields—sweetest isle of the ocean !

And thy harp-striking bards sing aloud with devotion—

Erin mavournin !—Erin go bragh !



LINES WRITTEN ON REVISITING A SCENE IN ARGYLESHIRE.

At the silence of twilight's contemplative hour,

I have mused in a sorrowful mood,

On the wind-shaken weeds that embosom the bower,

Where the home of my forefathers stood,

All ruined and wild is their roofless abode.

And lonely the dark raven's sheltering tree ;

And travelled by few is the grass-covered road,

Where the hunter of deer and the warrior trode

To his hills that encircle the sea.

Yet wandering, I found on my ruinous walk,

By the dial-stone aged and green,

One rose of the wilderness left on its stalk,

To mark where a garden had been

Like a brotherless hermit, the last of its race,

All wild in the silence of Nature, it drew,

From each wandering sunbeam, a lonely embrace ;

For the night-weed and thorn overshadowed the place

Where the flower of my forefathers grew.

Sweet bud of the wilderness ! emblem of all

That remains in this desolate heart !

The fabric of bliss to its centre may fall ;

But patience shall never depart !

Though the wilds of enchantment, all vernal and bright,

In the days of delusion by fancy combined,

With the vanishing phantoms of love and delight,

Abandon my soul like a dream of the night,

And leave but a desert behind.

Be hushed, my dark spirit ! for wisdom condemns

When the faint and the feeble deplore ;

Be strong as the rock of the ocean that stems

A thousand wild waves on the shore !

Through the perils of chance, and the scowl of disdain,

May thy front be unaltered, thy courage elate !

Yea ! even the name I have worshipped in vain

Shall awake not the sigh of remembrance again ;

To bear is to conquer our fate.

FIELD FLOWERS.

Ye field flowers ! the gardens eclipse you, 'tis true,

Yet, wildings of nature, I doat upon you ;

For ye waft me to summers of old,

When the earth teemed around me with fairy delight,

And when daisies and buttercups gladdened my sight,

Like treasures of silver and gold.

I love you for lulling me back into dreams

Of the blue Highland mountains and echoing streams,

And of broken glades breathing their balm,

While the deer was seen glancing in sunshine remote,

And the deep mellow crush of the wood-pigeon's note

Made music that sweetened the calm.

Not a pastoral song has a pleasanter tune Than ye speak to my heart, little wildings of June :

Of old ruinous castles ye tell, Where I thought it delightful your beauties to find,

When the magic of Nature first breathed on my mind,

And your blossoms were part of her spell.

Even now what affections the violet awakes ;

What loved little islands twice seen in their lakes,

Can the wild water-lily restore ;

What landscapes I read in the primrose's looks,

And what pictures of pebbled and minnowy brooks

In the vetches that tangled their shore.

Earth's cultureless buds, to my heart ye were dear,

Ere the fever of passion or ague of fear

Had scathed my existence's bloom ;

Once I welcome you more, in life's passionless stage,

With the visions of youth to revisit my age,

And I wish you to grow on my tomb.

MEN OF ENGLAND.

MEN of England ! who inherit Rights that cost your sires their blood !

Men whose undegenerate spirit

Has been proved on land and flood

Yours are Hampden's, Russell's glory,
 Sydney's matchless shade is yours,—
 Martyrs in heroic story,
 Worth a thousand Agincourts !

We're the sons of sires that baffled
 Crowned and mitred tyranny :
 They defied the field and scaffold,
 For their birthright—so will we.

YE MARINERS OF ENGLAND.

Ye mariners of England,
 That guard our native seas ;
 Whose flag has braved a thousand years
 The battle and the breeze !
 Your glorious standard launch again
 To match another foe ;
 And sweep through the deep,
 While the stormy winds do blow,
 While the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow !

The spirits of your fathers
 Shall start from every wave ;
 For the deck it was their field of fame
 And Ocean was their grave :
 Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell,
 Your manly hearts shall glow,
 As ye sweep through the deep,
 While the stormy winds do blow ;
 While the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow !

Britannia needs no bulwarks,
 No towers along the steep ;
 Her march is o'er the mountain wave,
 Her home is on the deep.
 With thunders from her native oak
 She quells the floods below,
 As they roar on the shore,
 When the stormy winds do blow ;
 When the battle rages loud and long,
 And the stormy winds do blow !

The meteor flag of England
 Shall yet terrific burn,
 Till danger's troubled night depart,
 And the star of peace return ;

Then, then, ye ocean warriors,
 Our song and feast shall flow
 To the fame of your name,
 When the storm has ceased to blow ;
 When the fiery fight is heard no more,
 And the storm has ceased to blow.

THE BATTLE OF THE BALTIC.

Of Nelson and the North
 Sing the glorious day's renown,
 When to battle fierce came forth
 All the might of Denmark's crown,
 And her arms along the deep proudly
 shone :
 By each gun the lighted brand
 In a bold, determined hand ;
 And the prince of all the land
 Led them on.

Like leviathans afloat,
 Lay their bulwarks on the brine,
 While the sign of battle flew
 O'er the lofty British line :
 It was ten of April morn by the chime.
 As they drifted on their path ;
 There was silence deep as death,
 And the boldest held his breath
 For a time.

But the might of England flushed,
 To anticipate the scene ;
 And her van the fleetest rushed
 O'er the deadly space between.
 "Hearts of oak !" our captains cried
 when each gun
 From its adamant lips
 Spread a death-shade round the ships,
 Like the hurricane eclipse
 Of the sun.

Again ! again ! again !
 And the havoc did not slack,
 Till a feeble cheer the Dane
 To our cheering sent us back ;
 Their shots along the deep slowly
 boom :—

Then ceased, and all is wail,
 As they strike the shattered sail ;
 Or, in conflagration pale,
 Light the gloom.

Out spoke the victor then,
As he hailed them o'er the wave:
"Ye are brothers! we are men!
And we conquer but to save:
So peace instead of death let us bring;
But yield, proud foe, thy fleet,
With the crews, at England's feet,
And make submission meet
To our king."

Then Denmark blessed our chief,
That he gave her wounds repose;
And the sounds of joy and grief
From her people wildly rose,
As death withdrew his shades from the
day;
While the sun looked smiling bright
O'er a wide and woeful sight,
Where the fires of funeral light
Died away.

Now joy, Old Eng. nd raise,
For the tidings of thy might,
By the festal cities' blaze,
Whilst the wine-cup shines in light;
And yet amidst that joy and uproar
Let us think of them that sleep,
Full many a fathom deep,
By thy wild and stormy steep,
Elsinore.

Brave hearts! to Britain's pride
Once so faithful and so true,
On the deck of fame that died,
With the gallant good Riou:
Soft sigh the winds of heaven o'er their
grave;
While the billow mournful rolls,
And the mermaid's song condoles,
Singing glory to the souls
Of the brave.

HOHENLINDEN.

On Linden when the sun was low,
All bloodless lay the untrodden snow;
And dark as winter was the flow
Of Iser rolling rapidly.

But Linden saw another sight
When the drum beat at dead of night,
Commanding fires of death to light
The darkness of her scenery.

By torch and trumpet fast arrayed,
Each horseman drew his battle blade,
And furious every charger neighed
To join the dreadful revelry.

Then shook the hills, with thunder riven;
Then rushed the steed, to battle driven;
And louder than the bolts of Heaven
Far flashed the red artillery

But redder yet that light shall glow
On Linden's hills of stained snow,
And bloodier yet the torrent flow
Of Iser rolling rapidly.

'Tis morn, but scarce yon level sun
Can pierce the war-clouds, rolling dun,
Where furious Frank and fiery Hun
Shout in their sulph'rous canopy.

The combat deepens. On, ye brave,
Who rush to glory or the grave!
Wave, Munich, all thy banners wave,
And charge with all thy chivalry.

Few, few shall part where many meet;
The snow shall be their winding-sheet;
And every turf beneath their feet
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre.

THE MOTHER.

The Pleasures of Hope.

Lo! at the couch where infant beauty
sleeps,
Her silent watch the mournful mother
keeps;
She, while the lovely babe unconscious
lies,
Smiles on her slumbering child with pen-
sive eyes,
And weaves a song of melancholy joy—
"Sleep, image of thy father, sleep, my
boy:
No lingering hour of sorrow shall be
thine;
No sigh that rends thy father's heart and
mine;
Bright as his manly sire the son shall be
In form and soul; but ah! more blest
than he!

Thy fame, thy worth, thy filial love, at
last,
Shall soothe this aching heart for all the
past—

With many a smile my solitude repay,
And chase the world's ungenerous scorn
away.

"And say, when summoned from the
world and thee,

I lay my head beneath the willow-tree,
Wilt thou, sweet mourner! at my stone
appear,

And soothe my parted spirit lingering
near? [shed

Oh, wilt thou come, at evening hour, to
The tears of memory o'er my narrow
bed;

With aching temples on thy hand re-
clined,

Muse on the last farewell I leave behind,
Breathe a deep sigh to winds that mur-
mur low,

And think on all my love, and all my
woe?"

So speaks affection, ere the infant eye
Can look regard, or brighten in reply.
But when the cherub lip hath learnt to
claim

A mother's ear by that endearing name;
Soon as the playful innocent can prove
A tear of pity, or a smile of love,
Or cons his murmuring task beneath her
care, [prayer,

Or lisps, with holy look, his evening
Or gazing, mutely pensive, sits to hear
The mournful ballad warbled in his ear;
How fondly looks admiring Hope the
while,

At every artless tear, and every smile!
How glows the joyous parent to descry
A guileless bosom, true to sympathy!

CAROLINE.

PART I.

I'LL bid the hyacinth to blow,
I'll teach my grotto green to be;
And sing my true love, all below
The holly bower and myrtle tree.

There all his wild-wood sweets to bring,
The sweet south wind shall wander by,
And with the music of his wing
Delight my rustling canopy.

Come to my close and clustering bower,
Thou spirit of a milder clime,
Fresh with the dews of fruit and flower,
Of mountain heath, and moory thyme.

With all thy rural echoes come,
Sweet comrade of the rosy day,
Wafting the wild bee's gentle hum,
Or cuckoo's plaintive roundelay.

Where'er thy morning breath has played,
Whatever isles of ocean fanned,
Come to my blossom-woven shade,
Thou wandering wind of fairy-land.

For sure from some enchanted isle,
Where Heaven and Love their Sabbath
hold,

Where pure and happy spirits smile,
Of beauty's fairest, brightest mould:

From some green Eden of the deep,
Where Pleasure's sigh alone is heaved,
Where tears of rapture lovers weep,
Endeared, undoubting, undeceived:

From some sweet paradise afar,
Thy music wanders, distant, lost—
Where Nature lights her leading star,
And love is never, never crossed.

Oh gentle gale of Eden bowers,
If back thy rosy feet should roam,
To revel with the cloudless Hours
In Nature's more propitious home,

Name to thy loved Elysian groves,
That o'er enchanted spirits twine,
A fairer form than cherub loves,
And let the name be Caroline.

PART II.

TO THE SHINING STAR.

GEM of shining day,
Comp' gates of heaven,
Why art thou delay?
Belove

So fair thy pensile beauty burns,
When soft the tear of twilight flows,
So due thy plighted love returns,
To chambers brighter than the rose.

To Peace, to Pleasure, and to Love,
So kind a star thou seem'st to be,
Sure some enamoured orb above
Descends and burns to meet with thee.

Thine is the breathing, blushing hour,
When all unheavenly passions fly,
Chased by the soul-subduing power
Of Love's delicious witchery.

O! sacred to the fall of day,
Queen of propitious stars, appear,
And early rise, and long delay,
When Caroline herself is here!

Shine on her chosen green resort,
Whose trees the sunward summit
crown,
And wanton flowers, that well may court
An angel's feet to tread them down.

Shine on her sweetly-scented road,
Thou star of evening's purple dome,
That lead'st the nightingale abroad,
And guid'st the pilgrim to his home.

Shine where my charmer's sweeter breath
Embalms the soft exhaling dew,
Where dying winds a sigh bequeath
To kiss the cheek of rosy hue;

Where, winnowed by the gentle air,
Her silken tresses darkly flow,
And fall upon her brow so fair,
Like shadows on the mountain snow.

Thus, ever thus, at day's decline,
In converse sweet, to wander far,
O bring with thee my Caroline,
And thou shalt be my ruling star?

THE RAINBOW.

TRIUMPH, and ask not proud philoso-
phers, when
To teach me what th

Still seem, as to my childhood's sight,
A mid-way station given
For happy spirits to alight,
Betwixt the earth and heaven.

Can all that optics teach, unfold
Thy form to please me so,
As when I dreamed of gems and gold
Hid in thy radiant brow?

When Science from Creation's face
Enchantment's veil withdraws,
What lovely visions yield their place
To cold material laws!

And yet, fair bow, no fabling dreams
But words of the Most High,
Have told why first thy robe of beams
Was woven in the sky.

When o'er the green undeluged earth,
Heaven's covenant thou did'st shine,
How came the world's gray fathers forth
To watch thy sacred sign!

And when its yellow lustre smiled
O'er mountains yet untrod,
Each mother held aloft her child
To bless the bow of God.

Methinks, thy jubilee to keep,
The first made anthem rang
On earth, delivered from the deep,
And the first poet sang.

Nor ever shall the Muse's eye
Unraptured greet thy beam;
Theme of primeval prophecy,
Be still the poet's theme!

The earth to thee her incense yields,
The lark thy welcome sings,
When, glittering in the freshened fields,
The snowy mushroom springs.

How glorious is thy girdle cast
O'er mountain, tower, and town,
Or mirrored in the ocean vast,
A thousand fathoms down!

As fresh in yon horizon dark,
As young thy beauties seem,
As when the eagle from the ark
First sported in thy beam.

For, faithful to its sacred page,
Heaven still rebuilds thy span,
Nor lets the type grow pale with age
That first spoke peace to man.

[ALARIC ALEXANDER WATTS. 1789—1864.]

MY OWN FIRESIDE.

LET others seek for empty joys,
At ball or concert, rout or play,
Whilst, far from fashion's idle noise,
Her gilded domes, and trappings gay,
I while the wintry eve away,—
'Twixt book and lute the hours divide,
And marvel how I e'er could stray
From thee—my own Fireside!

My own Fireside! Those simple words
Can bid the sweetest dreams arise!
Awaken feeling's tenderest chords,
And fill with tears of joy mine eyes!
What is there my wild heart can prize,
That doth not in thy sphere abide,
Haunt of my home-bred sympathies,
My own—my own Fireside!

A gentle form is near me now;
A small white hand is clasped in mine;
I gaze upon her placid brow,
And ask what joys can equal thine!
A babe whose beauty's half divine,
In sleep his mother's eyes doth hide;
Where may love seek a fitter shrine
Than thou—my own Fireside?

What care I for the sullen roar
Of winds without that ravage earth;
It doth but bid me prize the more
The shelter of thy hallowed hearth;—
To thoughts of quiet bliss give birth:
Then let the churlish tempest chide,
It cannot check the blameless mirth
That glads my own Fireside!

My refuge ever from the storm
Of this world's passion, strife, and care;
Though thunder-clouds the sky deform,
Their fury cannot reach me there.
There all is cheerful, calm, and fair:
Wrath, Malice, Envy, Strife, or Pride,
Hath never made its hated lair
By thee—my own Fireside!

Thy precincts are a charmed ring,
Where no harsh feeling dares intrude;
Where life's vexations lose their sting;
Where even grief is half subdued:
And Peace, the halcyon, loves to brood.
Then, let the pampered fool dende,
I'll pay my debt of gratitude
To thee—my own Fireside!

Shrine of my household deities!
Fair scene of home's unsullied joys!
To thee my burthened spirit flies,
When fortune frowns, or care annoys:
Thine is the bliss that never cloy;
The smile whose truth hath oft been
tried,
What, then, are this world's tinsel toys
To thee—my own Fireside!

Oh, may the yearnings, fond and sweet,
That bid my thoughts be all of thee,
Thus ever guide my wandering feet
To thy heart soothing sanctuary!
Whate'er my future years may be:
Let joy or grief my fate betide;
Be still an Eden bright to me
My own—my own Fireside!

THE DEATH OF THE FIRST-BORN.

My sweet one, my sweet one, the tears
were in my eyes
When first I clasped thee to my heart,
and heard thy feeble cries;
For I thought of all that I had borne as I
bent me down to kiss
Thy cherry lips and sunny brow, my first-
born bud of bliss!

I turned to many a withered hope, to
years of grief and pain,
And the cruel wrongs of a bitter world
flashed o'er my boding brain ;
I thought of friends, grown worse than
cold—of persecuting foes,
And I asked of Heaven if ills like these
must mar thy youth's repose !

I gazed upon thy quiet face, half-blinded
by my tears,
Till gleams of bliss, unfelt before, came
brightening on my fears ;
Sweet rays of hope that fairer shone 'mid
the clouds of gloom that bound them,
As stars dart down their loveliest light
when midnight skies are 'round them.

My sweet one, my sweet one, thy life's
brief hour is o'er,
And a father's anxious fears for thee can
fever me no more !
And for the hopes, the sun-bright hopes,
that blossomed at thy birth,
They, too, have fled, to prove how frail
are cherished things of earth !

'Tis true that thou wert young, my child ;
but though brief thy span below,
To me it was a little age of agony and
woe ;
For, from thy first faint dawn of life, thy
cheek began to fade,
And my lips had scarce thy welcome
breathed, ere my hopes were wrapt
in shade.

Oh ! the child in its hours of health and
bloom, that is dear as thou wert
then,
Grows far more prized, more fondly
loved, in sickness and in pain !
And thus 'twas thine to prove, dear babe,
when every hope was lost,
Ten times more precious to my soul, for
all that thou hadst cost !

Cradled in thy fair mother's arms, we
watched thee day by day,
Pale like the second bow of heaven, as
gently waste away ;
And, sick with dark foreboding fears, we
dared not breathe aloud,
Sat, hand in hand, in speechless grief, to
wait death's coming cloud !

It came at length : o'er thy bright blue
eye the film was gathering fast,
And an awful shade passed o'er thy brow,
the deepest and the last :
In thicker gushes strove thy breath—we
raised thy drooping head :
A moment more—the final pang—and
thou wert with the dead !

Thy gentle mother turned away to hide
her face from me,
And murmured low of Heaven's behests,
and bliss attained by thee ;
She would have chid me that I mourned
a doom so blest as thine,
Had not her own deep grief burst forth in
tears as wild as mine !

We laid thee down in sinless rest, and
from thine infant brow
Culled one soft lock of radiant hair our
only solace now ;
Then placed around thy beauteous corse
flowers, not more fair and sweet—
Twin rosebuds in thy little hands, and
jasmine at thy feet.

Though other offspring still be ours, as
fair perchance as thou,
With all the beauty of thy cheek, the
sunshine of thy brow,
They never can replace the bud our early
fondness nursed :
They may be lovely and beloved, but not
like thee, the first !

The first ! How many a memory bright
that one sweet word can bring,
Of hopes that blossomed, drooped, and
died, in life's delightful spring—
Of fervid feelings passed away—those
early seeds of bliss
That germinate in hearts unseared by such
a world as this !

My sweet one, my sweet one, my fairest
and my first !
When I think of what thou mightst have
been, my heart is like to burst ;
But gleams of gladness through my gloom
their soothing radiance dart,
And my sighs are hushed, my tears are
dried, when I turn to what thou art

Pure as the snow-flake ere it falls and
 takes the stain of earth,
 With not a taint of mortal life, except thy
 mortal birth,
 God bade thee early taste the spring for
 which so many thirst,
 And bliss, eternal bliss is thine, my
 fairest and my first !

I THINK OF THEE.

I THINK of thee—I think of thee,
 And all that thou hast borne for me ;
 In hours of gloom, or heartless glee,
 I think of thee—I think of thee !

When fiercest rage the storms of Fate,
 And all around is desolate ;
 I pour on life's tempestuous sea
 The oil of peace—with thoughts of thee !

When Fortune frowns and hopes deceive
 me,
 And summer-friends in sorrow leave me ;
 A Timon, from the world I flee—
 My wreck of wealth—sweet dreams of
 thee !

Or if I join the careless crowd,
 Where laughter peals and mirth grows
 loud !
 Even in my hours of revelry,
 I turn to thee—I turn to thee !

I think of thee—I think and sigh
 O'er blighted years, and bliss gone by ;
 And mourn the stern, severe decree,
 That spared me only thoughts of thee !

In Youth's gay spring, 'mid Pleasure's
 bowers,
 Where all is sunshine, mirth, and flowers,
 We met ;—I bent the adoring knee,
 And told a tender tale to thee !

'Twas summer's eve—the heavens above,
 Earth—ocean—air—were full of love .
 Nature around kept jubilee
 When first I breathed that tale to thee !

The crystal clouds that hung on high
 Were blue as thy delicious eye ;—

The stirless shore, and sleeping sea,
 Seemed emblems of repose and thee !

I spoke of hope—I spoke of fear ;—
 Thy answer was a blush and tear :—
 But this was eloquence to me,
 And more than I had asked of thee !

I looked into thy dewy eye,
 And echoed thy half-stifled sigh ;
 I clasped thy hand—and vowed to be
 The soul of love and truth to thee !

The scene and hour have passed—yet still
 Remains a deep-impassioned thrill ;
 A sunset glow on memory,
 That kindles at each thought of thee !

We loved—how wildly and how well,
 'Twere worse than idle now to tell :
 From love and life alike thou'rt free,
 And I am left to think of thee !

Though years—long years have darkly
 sped,
 Since thou wert numbered with the dead,
 In fancy oft thy form I see ;
 In dreams, at least, I'm still with thee !

Thy beauty, helplessness, and youth ;
 Thy hapless fate, untiring truth ;
 Are spells that often touch the key
 Of sweet, harmonious thoughts of thee !

The bitter frown of friends estranged,
 The chilling straits of fortunes changed ;
 All this—and more—thou'st borne for
 me—
 Then how can I be false to thee ?

I never will :—I'll think of thee
 Till fades the power of memory ;
 In weal or woe—in gloom or glee—
 I'll think of thee—I'll think of thee !

[LETITIA ELIZABETH LONDON. 1802—1838.]

THE TROUBADOUR.

HE raised the golden cup from the board,
 It sparkled with purple wealth,
 He kissed the brim her lip had pr
 And drank to his lady's health

Ladye, to-night I pledge thy name,
To-morrow thou shalt pledge mine ;
Ever the smile of beauty should light,
The victor's blood-red wine.

There are some flowers of brightest bloom
Amid thy beautiful hair,
Give me those roses, they shall be
The favour I will wear.

For ere their colour is wholly gone,
Or the breath of their sweetness fled,
They shall be placed in thy curls again,
But dyed of a deeper red.

The warrior rode forth in the morning
light
And beside his snow-white plume
Were the roses wet with the sparkling
dew,
Like pearls on their crimson bloom.

The maiden stood on her highest tower,
And watched her knight depart ;
She dashed her tear aside, but her hand
Might not still her beating heart.

All day she watched the distant clouds
Float on the distant air,
A crucifix upon her neck,
And on her lips a prayer.

The sun went down, and twilight came
With her banner of pearly grey,
And then afar she saw a band
Wind down the vale their way.

They came like victors, for high o'er their
ranks
Were their crimson colours borne ;
And a stranger pennon drooped beneath,
But that was bowed and torn.

But she saw no white steed first in the
ranks,
No rider that spurred before ;
But the evening shadows were closing
fast,
And she could see no more.

She turned from her watch on the lonely
tower

In haste to reach the hall,
And as she sprang down the winding stair,
She heard the drawbridge fall.

A hundred harps their welcome rung,
Then paused, as if in fear ;
The ladye entered the hall, and saw
Her true knight stretched on his bier.

THE DESERTER.

THE muffled drum is rolling, and the low
Notes of the death-march float upon the
wind,
And stately steps are pacing round that
square
With slow and measured tread ; but every
brow
Is darkened with emotion, and stern eyes,
That looked unshrinking on the face of
death
When met in battle, are now moist with
tears.
The silent ring is formed, and, in the
midst
Stands the deserter ! Can this be the
same,
The young, the gallant Edward ? and are
these
The laurels promised in his early dreams ?
These fettered hands, this doom of open
shame ?
Alas ! for young and passionate spirits !
Soon
False lights will dazzle. He had madly
joined
The rebel banner ! Oh ! 'twas pride to
link
His fate with Erin's patriot few, to fight
For liberty or the grave ! But he was now
A prisoner ; yet there he stood as firm
As though his feet were not upon the
tomb ;
His cheek was pale as marble, and as
cold ;
But his lips trembled not, and his dark
eyes
Glanced proudly round. But when they
bared his breast

For the death shot, and took a portrait
thence,
He clenched his hands, and gasped, and
one deep sob
Of agony burst from him, and he hid
His face awhile,—his mother's look was
there.
He could not steel his soul when he re-
called
The bitterness of her despair. It passed—
That moment of wild anguish; he knelt
down;
That sunbeam shed its glory over one,
Young, proud, and brave, nerved in deep
energy;
The next fell over cold and bloody clay.

THE MASK OF LOVE AND PRIDE.

'Tis strange to think, if we could fling
aside
The mask and mantle that love wears
from pride,
How much would be, we now so little
guess,
Deep in each heart's undreamed, unsought
recess:
The careless smile, like a gay banner
borne,
The laugh of merriment, the lip of scorn,—
And, for a cloak, what is there that can
be
So difficult to pierce as gaiety?
Too dazzling to be scanned, the haughty
brow
Seems to hide something it would not
avow;
But rainbow words, light laugh, and
thoughtless jest,
These are the bars, the curtain to the
breast,
That shuns a scrutiny.

YEARNINGS FOR IMMOK- TALITY.

I AM myself but a vile link
Amid life's weary chain;
But I have spoken hallowed words,
Oh, do not say in vain!

My first, my last, my only wish,
Say, will my charmed chords
Wake to the morning light of fame,
And breathe again my words?

Will the young maiden, when her tears
Alone in moon-light shine—
Tears for the absent and the loved—
Murmur some song of mine?

Will the pale youth by his dim lamp,
Himself a dying flame,
From many an antique scroll beside,
Choose that which bears my name?

Let music make less terrible
The silence of the dead;
I care not, so my spirit last
Long after life has fled.

INTIMATIONS OF PREVIOUS EXISTENCE.

METHINKS we must have known some
former state
More glorious than our present, and the
heart
Is haunted with dim memories, shadows
left
By past magnificence; and hence we pine
With vain aspirings, hopes that fill the
eyes
With bitter tears for their own vanity.
Remembrance makes the poet: 'tis the
past
Lingering within him, with a keener sense
Than is upon the thoughts of common
men
Of what has been, that fills the actual
world
With unreal likenesses of lovely shapes,
That were and are not; and the fairest
they,
The more their contrast with existing
things;
The more his power, the greater is his
grief.
—Are we then fallen from some noble star,
Whose consciousness is as an unknown
curse,
And we feel capable of happiness
Only to know it is not of our sphere?

[ROBERT POLLOCK. 1790—1827.]

THE GENIUS OF BYRON.

The Course of Time.

HE touched his harp, and nations heard,
 entranced.
 As some vast river of unfailing source,
 Rapid, exhaustless, deep, his numbers
 flowed,
 And oped new fountains in the human
 heart.
 Where Fancy halted, weary in her flight,
 In other men, his, fresh as morning,
 rose,
 And soared untrodden heights, and seemed
 at home,
 Where angels bashful looked. Others,
 though great,
 Beneath their argument seemed struggling
 while ;
 He from above descending, stooped to
 touch
 The loftiest thought ; and proudly stooped,
 as though
 It scarce deserved his verse. With Na-
 ture's self
 He seemed an old acquaintance, free to
 jest
 At will with all her glorious majesty.
 He laid his hand upon "the Ocean's
 mane,"
 And played familiar with his hoary locks :
 Stood on the Alps, stood on the Apen-
 nines,
 And with the thunder talked as friend to
 friend ;
 And wove his garland of the lightning's
 wing,
 In sportive twist, the lightning's fiery
 wing,
 Which, as the footsteps of the dreadful
 God,
 Marching upon the storm in vengeance,
 seemed ;
 Then turned, and with the grasshopper,
 who sung
 His evening song beneath his feet, con-
 versed.
 Suns, moons, and stars, and clouds, his
 sisters were ;
 Rocks, mountains, meteors, seas, and
 winds, and storms ;

His brothers, younger brothers, whom he
 scarce
 As equals deemed. All passions of all
 men,
 The wild and tame, the gentle and
 severe ;
 All thoughts, all maxims, sacred and
 profane ;
 All creeds, all seasons, Time, Eternity ;
 All that was hated, and all that was
 dear ;
 All that was hoped, all that was feared,
 by man,
 He tossed about, as tempest-withered
 leaves ;
 Then, smiling, looked upon the wreck
 he made.
 With terror now he froze the cowering
 blood,
 And now dissolved the heart in tender-
 ness ;
 Yet would not tremble, would not weep
 himself ;
 But back into his soul retired, alone,
 Dark, sullen, proud, gazing contemp-
 tuously
 On hearts and passions prostrate at his
 feet.
 So Ocean, from the plains his waves had
 late
 To desolation swept, retired in pride,
 Exulting in the glory of his might,
 And seemed to mock the ruin he had
 wrought.
 As some fierce comet of tremendous
 size,
 To which the stars did reverence as it
 passed,
 So he, through learning and through
 fancy, took
 His flights sublime, and on the loftiest
 top
 Of Fame's dread mountain sat ; not
 soiled and worn,
 As if he from the earth had laboured
 up ;
 But, as some bird of heavenly plumage
 fair,
 He looked, which down from higher
 regions came,
 And perched it there, to see what lay
 beneath.

[ISMAEL FITZADAM. DIED 1826.]

LOVE.

I.

WE met in secret, in the depth of night
 When there was none to watch us ; not
 an eye
 Save the lone dweller of the lonely sky
 To gaze upon our love and pure delight ;
 And in that hour's unbroken solitude,
 When the white moon had robed her in
 its beam,
 I've thought some vision of a blessed
 dream,
 Or spirit of the air before me stood,
 And held communion with me. In mine
 ear
 Her voice's sweet notes breathed not of
 the earth,
 Her beauty seemed not of a mortal birth ;
 And in my heart there was an awful fear,
 A thrill, like some deep warning from
 above,
 That soothed its passion to a Spirit's
 love.

II.

SHE stood before me ; the pure lamps of
 heaven
 Lighted her charms, and those soft
 eyes which turned
 On me with dying fondness. My heart
 burned,
 As, tremblingly with hers, my vows were
 given.
 Then softly 'gainst my bosom beat her
 heart ;
 These living arms around her form
 were thrown,
 Binding her heavenly beauty like a
 zone,
 While from her ruby warm lips, just apart
 Like bursting roses, sighs of fragrance
 stole,
 And words of music whispering in mine
 ear
 Things pure and holy none but mine
 should hear ; [soul,
 For they were accents uttered from the
 For which no tongue her innocence
 reproved,
 And breathed for one who loved her
 and was loved.

[MRS. JAMESON. 1796—1860.]

TAKE ME, MOTHER EARTH.

TAKE me, Mother Earth, to thy cold
 breast,
 And fold me there in everlasting rest !
 The long day is o'er :
 I'm weary, I would sleep ;
 But deep, deep,
 Never to waken more !

I have had joy and sorrow, I have proved
 What life could give, have loved and been
 beloved ;
 I am sick, and heartsore,
 And weary ; let me sleep ;
 But deep, deep,
 Never to waken more !

To thy dark chamber, Mother Earth, I
 come ;
 Prepare thy dreamless bed in my last
 home ;
 Shut down the marble door,
 And leave me ! Let me sleep ;
 But deep, deep,
 Never to waken more !

[LAMAR BLANCHARD. 1803—1845.]

HIDDEN JOYS.

PLEASURES lie thickest, where no pleasures seem ;
 There's not a leaf that falls upon the
 ground
 But holds some joy, of silence or of
 sound,
 Some sprite begotten of a summer
 dream.
 The very meanest things are made
 supreme
 With innate ecstasy. No grain of
 sand
 But moves a bright and million-peopled
 land,
 And hath its Eden, and its Eves, I
 deem.
 For Love, though blind himself, a curious
 eye
 Hath lent me, to behold the hearts of
 things,

And touched mine ear with power.
 Thus far or nigh,
 Minute or mighty, fixed, or free with
 wings,
 Delight from many a nameless covert
 sly
 Peeps sparkling, and in tones familiar
 sings.

[GERALD GRIFFIN. 1803—1840.]

THE MOTHER'S LAMENT.

MY darling, my darling, while silence is
 on the moor,
 And love in the sunshine, I sit by our
 cabin-door ;
 When evening falls quiet and calm over
 land and sea,
 My darling, my darling, I think of past
 times and thee !

Here, while on this cold shore I wear out
 my lonely hours,
 My child in the heavens is spreading my
 bed with flowers ;
 All weary my bosom is grown of this
 friendless clime,
 But I long not to leave it, for that were a
 shame and crime.

They bear to the churchyard the youth in
 their health away—
 I know where a fruit hangs more ripe for
 the grave than they ;
 But I wish not for death, for my spirit is
 all resigned,
 And the hope that stays with me gives
 peace to my aged mind.

My darling, my darling, God gave to my
 feeble age
 A prop for my faint heart, a stay in my
 pilgrimage.
 My darling, my darling, God takes back
 his gift again,
 And my heart may be broken, but ne'er
 shall my will complain.

[THOMAS K. HERVEY. 1804—1839.]

ADIEU, ADIEU, OUR DREAM OF LOVE !

ADIEU, adieu !—our dream of love
 Was far too sweet to linger long ;
 Such hopes may bloom in bowers above,
 But here they mock the fond and
 young.

We met in hope, we part in tears !
 Yet, oh, 'tis sadly sweet to know
 That life, in all its future years,
 Can reach us with no heavier blow !

Our souls have drunk in early youth
 The bitter dregs of earthly ill ;
 Our bosoms, blighted in their truth,
 Have learned to suffer and be still !

The hour is come, the spell is past ;
 Far, far from thee, my only love,
 Youth's earliest hope, and manhood's
 last,
 My darkened spirit turns to rove.

Adieu, adieu ! oh, dull and dread
 Sinks on the ear that parting knell !
 Hope and the dreams of hope, lie dead,—
 To them and thee—farewell, farewell !

I THINK ON THEE IN THE NIGHT.

I THINK on thee in the night,
 When all beside is still,
 And the moon comes out, with her pale,
 sad light,
 To sit on the lonely hill ;
 When the stars are all like dreams,
 And the breezes all like sighs,
 And there comes a voice from the far-off
 streams,
 Like thy spirit's low replies.

I think on thee by day,
 'Mid the cold and busy crowd,
 When the laughter of the young and gay
 Is far too glad and loud !
 I hear thy soft, sad tone,
 And thy young sweet smile I see :
 My heart,—my heart were all alone,
 But for its dreams of thee !

[WILLIAM MOTHERWELL. 1797—1835.]

WEARIE'S WELL.

IN a saft simmer gloamin',
In yon dowie dell,
It was there we twa first met,
By Wearie's cauld well.
We sat on the broom bank,
And looked in the burn,
But sidelang we looked on
Ilk ither in turn.

The corn Craik was chirring
His sad eerie cry,
And the wee stars were dreaming
Their path through the sky;
The burn babbled freely
Its love to ilk flower,
But we heard and we saw nought
In that blessed hour.

We heard and we saw nought,
Above or around;
We felt that our luvie lived,
And loathed idle sound.
I gazed on your sweet face
Till tears filled my e'e,
And they drapt on your wee loof—
A waird's wealth to me.

Now the winter snaw's fa'ing
On bare holm and lea,
And the cauld wind is strippin'
Ilk leaf aff the tree.
But the snaw fa's not faster,
Nor leaf disna part
Sae sune frae the bough, as
Faith fades in your heart.

You've waled out anither
Your bridegroom to be;
But can his heart luvie sae
As mine luvit thee?
Ye'll get biggings and mallins,
And mony braw claes;
But they a' winna buy back
The peace o' past days.

Farewell, and for ever,
My first luvie and last;
May thy joys be to come—
Mine live in the past.

• IL sorrow and sadness
This hour fa's on me;
But light, as thy luvie, may
It fleet e' ver thee!

[JOHN CLARE. 1793—1864.]

THE DAWNINGS OF YOUTHFUL
GENIUS IN A PLOUGHBOY.

OFT will he stoop, inquisitive to trace
The opening beauties of a daisy's face;
Oft will he witness, with admiring eyes,
The brook's sweet dimples o'er the
pebbles rise;
And often bent, as o'er some magic
spell,
He'll pause and pick his shapèd stone
and shell:
Raptures the while his inward powers
in flame,
And joys delight him which he cannot
name.
Thus pausing wild on all he saunters
by,
He feels enraptured, though he knows
not why;
And hums and mutters o'er his joys in
vain,
And dwells on something which he can't
explain.
The bursts of thought with which his
soul's perplexed,
Are bred one moment, and are gone the
next;
Yet still the heart will kindling sparks
retain,
And thoughts will rise, and Fancy strive
again.

[JOHN KEATS. 1796—1820.]

THE ALL-PERVADING IN-
FLUENCE OF BEAUTY.

A THING of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will
keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and
quiet breathing.

Therefore, on every morrow, are we
wreathing

A flowery band to bind us to the
earth,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman
dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened
ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of
all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the
pall

From our dark spirits. Such the sun,
the moon,

Trees old and young, sprouting a shady
boon

For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and
clear rills

That for themselves a cooling covert
make

'Gainst the hot season; the mid-forest
brake,

Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose
blooms:

And such too is the grandeur of the
dooms

We have imagined for the mighty
dead;

All lovely tales that we have heard or
read;

An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

Nor do we merely feel these essences
For one short hour; no, even as the
trees

That whisper round a temple become
soon

Dear as the temple's self, so does the
moon,

The passion poesy, glories infinite,
Haunt us till they become a cheering
light

Unto our souls, and bound to us so
fast,

That, whether there be shine, or gloom
o'ercast,

They always must be with us, or we
die.

THE LATMIAN FOREST.

UPON the sides of Latmos was outspread
A mighty forest; for the moist earth fed,
So plenteously all weed-hidden roots
Into o'erhanging boughs, and precious
fruits.

And it had gloomy shades, sequestered
deep,

Where no man went; and if from shep-
herd's keep

A lamb strayed far a-down those inmost
glens,

Never again saw he the happy pens
Whither his brethren, bleating with con-
tent,

Over the hills at every nightfall went.

Among the shepherds 'twas believed ever,
That not one fleecy lamb which thus did
sever

From the white flock, but passed un-
worried

By any wolf, or pard with prying head,
Until it came to some unfooted plains

Where fed the herds of Pan: ay, great
his gains

Who thus one lamb did lose. Paths
there were many,

Winding through palmy fern, and rushes
fenny,

And ivy banks; all leading pleasantly
To a wide lawn, whence one could only see

Stems thronging all around between the
swell

Of tuft and slanting branches: who could
tell

The freshness of the space of heaven
above,

Edged round with dark tree-tops?
through which a dove

Would often beat its wings, and often too
A little cloud would move across the
blue.

Full in the middle of this pleasantness
There stood a marble altar, with a tress
Of flowers budded newly; and the dew
Had taken fairy fantasies to strew
Daisies upon the sacred sward last eve,
And so the dawned light in pomp receive.
For 'twas the morn: Apollo's upward
fire

Made every eastern cloud a silvery pyre

Darkling I listen; and for many a time,

I have been half in love with easeful Death,
Called him soft names in many a mused rhyme,

To take into the air my quiet breath;
Now more than ever seems it rich to die,
To cease upon the midnight with no pain,

While thou art pouring forth thy soul abroad

In such an ecstasy!
Still wouldst thou sing, and I have ears in vain—

To thy high requiem become a sod.

Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!

No hungry generations tread thee down;
The voice I hear this passing night was heard

In ancient days by emperor and clown:

Perhaps the self-same song that found a path

Through the sad heart of Ruth, when sick for home,

She stood in tears amid the alien corn;

The same that oft-times hath
Charmed magic casements, opening on the foam

Of perilous seas, in faery lands forlorn.

Forlorn! the very word is like a bell

To toll me back from thee to my sole self!

Adieu! the fancy cannot cheat so well

As she is famed to do, deceiving elf.

Adieu! adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades

Past the near meadows, over the still stream,

Up the hill-side; and now 'tis buried deep

In the next valley-glades:

Was it a vision, or a waking dream?

Fled is that music:—do I wake or sleep?

AUTUMNAL MUSIC.

WHERE are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?

Think not of them, 'thou hast thy music too,—

While barred clouds bloom the soft dying day,

And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;

Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn

Among the river shallows, borne aloft,
Or sinking, as the light wind lives or dies;

And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;

Hedge-crickets sing; and now, with treble soft,

The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;

And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

HYMN TO PAN.

Enulymion.

O THOU, whose mighty palace roof doth hang

From jagged trunks, and overshadoweth
Eternal whispers, glooms, the birth, life, death

Of unseen flowers in heavy peacefulness;
Who lovest to see the hamadryads dress
Their ruffled locks where meeting hazels
darken;

And through whole solemn hours dost sit, and hearken

The dreary melody of bedded reeds—
In desolate places, where dank moisture breeds

The pipy hemlock to strange overgrowth;
Bethinking thee, how melancholy loth
Thou wast to lose fair Syrinx—do thou
now,

By thy love's milky brow!

By all the trembling mazes that she ran,
Hear us, great Pan!

* * * * *

Thou, to whom every faun and satyr flies

For willing service; whether to surprise

The squatted hare, while in half-sleeping fit ;

Or upward ragged precipices flit
To save poor lambkins from the eagle's
maw ;

Or by mysterious enticement draw
Bewildered shepherds to their path again ;
Or to tread breathless round the frothy
main,

And gather up all fancifullest shells,
For thee to tumble into Naiads' cells,
And, being hidden, laugh at their out-
peeping ;

Or to delight thee with fantastic leaping,
The while they pelt each other on the
crown

With silvery oak-apples and fir-cones
brown,—

By all the echoes that about thee ring,
Hear us, O satyr king !

O hearkener to the loud-clapping shears,
While ever and anon to his shorn peers,
A ram goes bleating : Winder of the
horn,

When snouted wild-boars, routing tender
corn,

Anger our huntsman : Breather round
our farms,

To keep off mildews, and all weather
harms :

Strange ministrant of undescrib'd sounds,
That come a-swooning over hollow
grounds,

And wither drearily on barren moors :

Dread opener of the mysterious doors
Leading to universal knowledge—see,

Great son of Dryope,

The many that are come to pay their
vows,

With leaves about their brows !

Be still the unimaginable lodge
For solitary thinkings ; such as dodge
Conception to the very bourne of heaven,
Then leave the naked brain : be still the
leaven,

That, spreading in this dull and clodded
earth,

Gives it a touch ethereal—a new birth :

Be still a symbol of immensity ;

A firmament reflected in a sea ;

An element filling the space between ;

An unknown—but no more : we humbly
screen

With uplift hands our foreheads, lowly
bending,

And giving out a shout most heaven
rending,

Conjure thee to receive our humble Paean,
Upon thy Mount Lycean !

~~~~~  
MOONLIGHT.

ETERNE Apollo ! that thy sister fair

Is of all these the gentlier-mightiest.

When thy gold breath is misting in the  
west,

She unobserved steals unto her throne,  
And there she sits most meek and most  
alone ;

As if she had not pomp subservient ;

As if thine eye, high Poet ! was not  
bent

Towards her with the muses in thine  
heart ;

As if the ministering stars kept not apart,  
Waiting for silver-footed messages.

O Moon ! the oldest shades 'mong oldest  
trees

Feel palpitations when thou lookest in :  
O Moon ! old boughs lisp forth a holier  
din

The while they feel thine airy fellowship.  
Thou dost bless everywhere, with silver  
lip

Kissing dead things to life. The sleeping  
kine,

Couched in thy brightness, dream of fields  
divine :

Innumerable mountains rise, and rise,  
Ambitious for the hallowing of thine  
eyes ;

And yet thy benediction passeth not

One obscure hiding-place, one little spot  
Where pleasure may be sent : the nested  
wren

Has thy fair face within its tranquil ken,  
And from beneath a sheltering ivy leaf

Takes glimpses of thee ; thou art a relief  
To the poor patient oyster, where it  
sleeps

Within its pearly house.—The mighty  
deeps,

The monstrous sea is thine—the myriad  
sea !

O Moon ! far spooming Ocean bows to  
thee,  
And Tellus feels her forehead's cumbrous  
load.

### THE POET'S HOPES.

WHAT though I leave this dull and  
earthly mould ;

Yet shall my spirit lofty converse hold  
With after-times. The patriot shall feel  
My stern alarum, and unsheathe his steel,  
Or in the senate thunder out my numbers,  
To startle princes from their easy  
slumbers.

The sage will mingle with each moral  
theme

My happy thoughts sententious ; he will  
teem

With lofty periods when my verses fire  
him,

And then I'll stoop from heaven to  
inspire him.

Lays have I left, of such a dear delight,  
That maids will sing them on their bridal-  
night.

Gay villagers, upon a morn in May,  
When they have tired their gentle limbs  
with play,

And formed a snowy circle on the grass,  
And placed in midst of all that lovely  
lass,

Who chosen is their queen—with her fine  
head [red :

Crowned with flowers, purple, white, and  
For there the lily and the musk-rose,  
sighing,

Are emblems true of hapless lovers dying ;  
Between her breasts that never yet felt  
trouble,

A bunch of violets full blown and double  
Serenely sleep : she from a casket takes  
A little book,—and then a joy awakes  
About each youthful heart,—with stifled  
cries,

And rubbing of white hands and sparkling  
cyes,

For she's to read a tale of hopes and  
fears—

One that I fostered in my youthful years.

The pearls that on each glistening circlet  
sleep

Gush ever and anon with silent creep,  
Lured by the innocent dimples. To sweet  
rest [breast

Shall the dear babe upon its mother's  
Be lulled with songs of mine. Fair  
world, adieu !

Thy dales and hills are fading from my  
view :

Swiftly I mount upon wide-spreading  
pinions,

Far from the narrow bounds of thy  
dominions ;

Full joy I feel while thus I cleave the air,  
That my soft verse will charm thy  
daughters fair,

And warm thy sons !—

### ENGLAND.

HAPPY is England ! I could be content  
To see no other verdure than its own ;

To feel no other breezes than are blown  
Through its tall woods with high ro-  
mances blent ;

Yet do I sometimes feel a languishment  
For skies Italian, and an inward groan  
To sit upon an Alp as on a throne,  
And half forget what world or worldling  
meant.

Happy is England, sweet her artless  
daughters ;

Enough their simple loveliness for me,  
Enough their whitest arms in silence  
clinging :

Yet do I often warmly burn to see  
Beauties of deeper glance, and hear their  
singing,

And float with them about the summer  
waters.

### ON FIRST LOOKING INTO CHAPMAN'S "HOMER."

MUCH have I travelled in the realms o  
gold, [seen ;

And many goodly states and kingdoms  
Round many western islands have I  
been,

Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold

Oft of one wide expanse had I been told  
That deep-browed Homer ruled as his  
demesne :

Yet did I never breathe its pure serene  
Till I heard Chapman speak out loud and  
bold ;

Then felt I like some watcher of the  
skies

When a new planet swims into his ken ;  
Or like stout Cortez, when with eagle  
eyes

He stared at the Pacific—and all his  
Looked at each other with a wild sur-  
mise—

Silent, upon a peak in Darien.

### THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE CRICKET.

THE poetry of earth is never dead :

When all the birds are faint with the  
hot sun,

And hide in cooling trees, a voice will  
run

From hedge to hedge about the new-  
mown mead ;

That is the grasshopper's—he takes the  
lead

In summer luxury,—he has never done  
With his delights, for when tired out  
with fun,

He rests at ease beneath some pleasant  
weed.

The poetry of earth is ceasing never :

On a lone winter evening, when the frost  
Has wrought a silence, from the stove  
there shrills

The cricket's song, in warmth increasing  
ever,

And seems to one in drowsiness half  
The grasshopper's among some grassy  
hills.

### THE HUMAN SEASONS.

FOUR seasons fill the measure of the year ;  
There are four seasons in the mind of  
man :

He has his lusty Spring, when fancy clear  
Takes in all beauty with an easy span :

He has his Summer, when luxuriously  
Spring's honeyed cud of youthful  
thought he loves

To ruminate, and by such dreaming high  
Is nearest unto heaven ; quiet coves

His soul has in its Autumn, when his  
wings

He furleth close ; contented so to look  
On mists in idleness—to let fair things

Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook.  
He has his Winter, too, of pale mis-  
feature,

Or else he would forego his moral  
[nature.]

### IN A DREAR-NIGHTED DECEMBER.

In a drear-nighted December,

Too happy, happy tree,

Thy branches ne'er remember

Their green felicity :

The north cannot undo them,

With a sleety whistle through them ;

Nor frozen thawings glue them

From budding at the prime.

In a drear-nighted December,

Too happy, happy brook,

Thy bubbleings ne'er remember

Apollo's summer look ;

But with a sweet forgetting,

They stay their crystal fretting,

Never, never petting

About the frozen time.

Ah ! would 'twere so with many

A gentle girl and boy !

But were there ever any

Wretched not at passed joy ?

To know the change and feel it,

When there is none to heal it,

Nor numbed sense to steal it,

Was never said in rhyme.

### \* TO SLEEP.

COME, sleep, O sleep, the certain knot of  
peace,

The baiting-place of wit, the balm of  
woe,

The poor man's wealth, the prisoner's re-  
lease,

• By Sir Philip Sidney. Erroneously placed.  
R



Th' indifferent judge between the high  
and low !  
With shield of proof, shield me from out  
the prease  
Of those fierce darts Despair at me  
doth throw ;  
O make me in those civil wars to cease !  
I will good tribute pay if thou do so.  
Take thou of me smooth pillows, sweetest  
bed,  
A chamber deaf to noise, and blind to  
light ;  
A rosy garland and a weary head ;  
And if these things, as being thine by  
right,  
Move not thy heavy grace, thou shalt in  
me,  
Livelier than elsewhere, Stella's image  
see.

[W. T. MONCRIEFF. 1790—1856.]

### LOVE'S FOLLIES.

WHEN lulled in passion's dream my  
senses slept,  
How did I act?—e'en as a wayward  
child ;  
I smiled with pleasure when I should  
have wept,  
And wept with sorrow when I should  
have smiled.

When Gracia, beautiful but faithless fair,  
Who long in passion's bonds my heart  
had kept,  
First with false blushes pitied my de-  
spair,  
I smiled with pleasure !—should I not  
have wept ?

And when, to gratify some wealthier  
wight,  
She left to grief the heart she had be-  
guiled,  
The heart grew sick, and saddening at  
the sight,  
I wept with sorrow !—should I not  
have smiled ?

[T. L. POCKOCK. DIED 1866.]

### OH ! SAY NOT WOMAN'S HEART IS BOUGHT.

OH ! say not woman's heart is bought  
With vain and empty treasure ;  
Oh ! say not woman's heart is caught  
By every idle pleasure.  
When first her gentle bosom knows  
Love's flame, it wanders never ;  
Deep in her heart the passion glows,—  
She loves, and loves for ever.

Oh ! say not woman's false as fair,  
That like the bee she ranges ;  
Still seeking flowers more sweet and rare,  
As fickle fancy changes.  
Ah, no ! the love that first can warm  
Will leave her bosom never ;  
No second passion e'er can charm,—  
She loves, and loves for ever.

[ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING. DIED 1861.]

### THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.

Do ye hear the children weeping, O my  
brothers,  
Ere the sorrow comes with years ?  
They are leaning their young heads  
against their mothers,—  
And that cannot stop their tears.  
The young lambs are bleating in the  
meadows, [nest,  
The young birds are chirping in the  
The young fawns are playing with the  
shadows,  
The young flowers are blowing toward  
the west—  
But the young, young children, O my  
brothers,  
They are weeping bitterly !—  
They are weeping in the playtime of the  
others,  
In the country of the free.

Do you question the young children in  
the sorrow,  
Why their tears are falling so ?—  
The old man may weep for his to-  
morrow  
Which is lost in Long Ago—

The old tree is leafless in the forest—

The old year is ending in the frost—  
The old wound, if stricken, is the  
sores—

The old hope is hardest to be lost :  
But the young, young children, O my  
brothers,

Do you ask them why they stand  
Weeping sore before the bosoms of their  
mothers,

In our happy Fatherland ?

They look up with their pale and sunken  
faces,

And their looks are sad to see,  
For the man's hoary anguish draws and  
presses

Down the cheeks of infancy—  
"Your old earth," they say "is very  
dreary ;"

"Our young feet," they say, "are very  
weak ! [weary—

Few paces have we taken, yet are  
Our grave-rest is very far to seek.

Ask the aged why they weep, and not  
the children,

For the outside earth is cold,  
And we young ones stand without, in our  
bewildering,

And the graves are for the old.

"True," say the children, "it may hap-  
pen

That we die before our time.  
Little Alice died last year—the grave is  
shapen

Like a snowball, in the rime.  
We looked into the pit prepared to take  
her— [clay :

Was no room for any work in the close  
From the sleep wherein she lieth none  
will wake her,

Crying, "Get up, little Alice ! it is  
day."

If you listen by that grave, in sun and  
shower,

With your ear down, little Alice never  
cries !—

Could we see her face, be sure we should  
not know her,

For the smile has time for growing in  
her eyes !

And merry go her moments, lulled and  
stilled in

The shroud, by the kirk-chime !  
It is good when it happens," say the  
children,

"That we die before our time."

Alas, alas, the children ! they are seeking  
Death in life, as best to have !

They are binding up their hearts away  
from breaking,

With a cerement from the grave.  
Go out, children, from the mine and  
from the city— [do—

Sing out, children, as the little thrushes  
Pluck you handfuls of the meadow-cow-  
slips pretty—

Laugh aloud, to feel your fingers let  
them through !

But they answer, "Are your cowslips of  
the meadows

Like our weeds anear the mine ?  
Leave us quiet in the dark of the coal-  
shadows,

From your pleasures fair and fine !

"For oh," say the children, "we are  
weary,

And we cannot run or leap—  
If we cared for any meadows, it were  
merely

To drop down in them and sleep.  
Our knees tremble sorely in the stoop-  
ing—

We fall upon our faces, trying to go ;  
And, underneath our heavy eyelids droop-  
ing, [as snow.

The reddest flower would look as pale  
For, all day, we drag our burden tiring

Through the coal-dark under-  
ground—

Or, all day, we drive the wheels of iron  
In the factories, round and round.

"For, all day, the wheels are droning,  
turning,—

Their wind comes in our faces,—  
Till our hearts turn,—our heads, with  
pulses burning,

And the walls turn in their places—  
Turns the sky in the high window blank  
and reeling—

Turns the long light that drops adown  
the wall—

Turns the long light that drops adown  
the wall—

Turns the long light that drops adown  
the wall—

Turns the long light that drops adown  
the wall—

Turn the black flies that crawl along the ceiling—

All are turning, all the day, and we with all.—

And all day, the iron wheels are droning;

And sometimes we could pray,

'O ye wheels,' (breaking out in a mad moaning)

'Stop! be silent for to-day!'

Ay! be silent! Let them hear each other breathing

For a moment, mouth to mouth—

Let them touch each other's hands, in a fresh wreathing

Of their tender human youth!

Let them feel that this cold metallic motion

[veals—

Is not all the life God fashions or re-  
Let them prove their living souls against the notion

[wheels!—

That they live in you, or under you, O Still, all day, the iron wheels go onward,  
Grinding life down from its mark;

And the children's souls, which God is calling sunward,

Spin on blindly in the dark.

Now tell the poor young children, O my brothers,

To look up to him and pray—

So the Blessed One, who blesteth all the others,

Will bless them another day.

They answer, "Who is God that He should hear us,

While the rushing of the iron wheels is stirred?

When we sob aloud, the human creatures near us

[word;

Pass by, hearing not, or answer not a  
And we hear not (for the wheels in their resounding)

Strangers speaking at the door:

Is it likely God, with angels singing round him,

Hears our weeping any more?

"Two words, indeed, of praying we remember,

And at midnight's hour of harm,

'Our Father,' looking upward in the chamber,

We say softly for a charm.

We know no other words, except 'Our Father,'

And we think that, in some pause of angel's song,

God may pluck them with the silence sweet to gather,

And hold both within His right hand which is strong.

'Our Father!' If He heard us, He would surely

(For they call Him good and mild)

Answer, smiling down the steep world very purely,

'Come and rest with me, my child.'

"But, no!" say the children, weeping faster,

"He is speechless as a stone;

And they tell us, of His image is the master

Who commands us to work on.

Go to!" say the children,—“up in Heaven,

Dark, wheel-like, turning clouds are all we find.

Do not mock us; grief has made us un-believing—

We look up for God, but tears have made us blind.”

Do you hear the children weeping and disproving,

O my brothers, what ye preach?

For God's possible is taught by his world's loving—

And the children doubt of each.

And well may the children weep before you!

They are weary ere they run;

They have never seen the sunshine, nor the glory

Which is brighter than the sun:

They know the grief of man, without his wisdom;

They sink in man's despair, without his calm—

Are slaves, without the liberty in Christ-  
dom,—

Are martyrs, by the pang without the palm,—

Are worn, as if with age, yet unretriev-  
ingly

The blessing of its memory cannot  
keep,—  
Are orphans of the earthly love and  
heavenly:  
Let them weep ! let them weep !

They look up, with their pale and sunken  
faces,  
And their look is dread to see,  
For they mind you of their angels in their  
places,  
With eyes turned on Deity;—  
“How long,” they say, “how long, O  
cruel nation,  
Will you stand to move the world, on  
a child’s heart,—  
Stifle down with a mailed heel its pal-  
pitation,  
And tread onward to your throne amid  
the mart?  
Our blood splashes upward, O gold-  
heaper,  
And your purple shows your path !  
But the child’s sob curses deeper in the  
silence  
Than the strong man in his wrath !”

#### COWPER’S GRAVE.

It is a place where poets crowned may  
feel the hearts’ decaying—  
It is a place where happy saints may weep  
amid their praying :  
Yet let the grief and humbleness, as low  
as silence, languish !  
Earth surely now may give her calm to  
whom she gave her anguish.  
O poets ! from a maniac’s tongue was  
poured the deathless singing !  
O Christians ! at your cross of hope a  
hopeless hand was clinging !  
O men ! this man in brotherhood your  
weary paths beguiling,  
Croaned inly while he taught you peace,  
and died while ye were smiling !

And now, what time ye all may read  
through dimming tears his story,  
How discord on the music fell, and dark-  
ness on the glory,

And how, when, one by one, sweet sounds  
and wandering lights departed,  
He wore no less a loving face because so  
broken-hearted.

He shall be strong to sanctify the poet’s  
high vocation ;  
And bow the meekest Christian down in  
meeker adoration ;  
Nor ever shall he be, in praise, by wise  
or good forsaken,  
Named softly as the household name of  
one whom God hath taken.

With quiet sadness and no gloom I learn  
to think upon him,  
With meekness that is gratefulness to God  
whose heaven hath won him—  
Who suffered once the madness-cloud to  
His own love to blind him,  
But gently led the blind along where  
breath and bird could find him ;

And wrought within his shattered brain,  
such quick poetic senses  
As hills have language for, and stars,  
harmonious influences !  
The pulse of dew upon the grass kept his  
within its number,  
And silent shadow from the trees re-  
freshed him like a slumber.

Wild timid hares were drawn from woods  
to share his home-caresses,  
Uplooking to his human eyes with sylvan  
tendernesses ;  
The very world, by God’s constraint,  
from falsehood’s ways removing,  
Its women and its men became beside  
him true and loving.

But while in blindness he remained un-  
conscious of the guiding,  
And things provided came without the  
sweet sense of providing,  
He testified this solemn truth though  
phrenzy desolated—  
Nor man nor nature satisfy, whom only  
God created !

Like a sick child that knoweth not his  
mother whilst she blesses,  
And drops upon his burning brow the  
coolness of her kisses ;

That turns his fevered eyes around—"My mother! where's my mother?"—

As if such tender words and looks could come from any other!—

The fever gone, with leaps of heart he sees her bending o'er him,

Her face all pale from watchful love, the unwearied love she bore him!—

Thus woke the poet from the dream his life's long fever gave him,

Beneath those deep pathetic Eyes, which closed in death to save him!

Thus? oh, not thus! no type of earth could image that awaking,

Wherein he scarcely heard the chant of seraphs round him breaking,

Or felt the new immortal throb of soul from body parted,

But felt those eyes alone, and knew, "My Saviour! not deserted!"

Deserted! who hath dreamt that when the cross in darkness rested

Upon the Victim's hidden face no love was manifested!

What frantic hands outstretched have e'er the atoning drops averted?

What tears have washed them from the soul, that one should be deserted?

Deserted! God could separate from His own essence rather,

And Adam's sins have swept between the righteous Son and Father;

Yea, once, Immanuel's orphaned cry his universe hath shaken—

It went up single, echoless, "My God, I am forsaken!"

It went up from the Holy's lips amid his lost creation,

That, of the lost, no son should use those words of desolation,

That earth's worst phrenzies, marring hope, should mar not hope's fruition,

And I, on Cowper's grave, should see his rapture in a vision!

## LOVE—A SONNET.

I THOUGHT, once how Theocritus had sung

Of the sweet years, the dear and wished-for years,

Who each one, in a gracious hand, appears To bear a gift for mortals, old and young;

And as I mused it in his antique tongue, I saw a gradual vision through my tears,

Those sweet sad years, the melancholy years,

Those of my own life, who by turns had flung

A shadow across me. Straightway I was ware,

So weeping, how a mystic shape did move Behind me, and drew me backwards by

the hair,

And a voice said in mastery, while I strove,

"Guess now who holds thee?" "Death," I said; but there

The silver answer rang,—"Not Death, but Love."

## A DEAD ROSE.

O ROSE! who dares to name thee?

No longer roseate now, nor soft, nor sweet;

But barren, and hard, and dry as stubble-wheat,

Kept seven years in a drawer—thy titles shame thee.

The breeze that used to blow thee

Between the hedge-row thorns, and take away

An odour up the lane, to last all day—

If breathing now—unsweetened would forego thee.

The sun that used to smite thee,

And mix his glory in thy gorgeous turn,

Till beam appeared to bloom and flower to burn—

If shining now—with not a hue would blot thee.

The dew that used to wet thee,  
And white first, grew incarnadined, be-  
cause  
It lay upon thee where the crimson was—  
If dropping now—would darken where  
it met thee.

The fly that lit upon thee,  
To stretch the tendrils of its tiny feet  
Along the leaf's pure edges after heat,—  
If lighting now—would coldly overrun  
thee.

The bee that once did suck thee,  
And build thy perfumed ambers up his  
hive,  
And swoon in thee for joy, till scarce  
alive—  
If passing now—would blindly overlook  
thee.

The heart doth recognise thee,  
Alone, alone! The heart doth smell thee  
sweet,  
Doth view thee fair, doth judge thee most  
complete—  
Though seeing now those changes that  
disguise thee.

Yes, and the heart doth owe thee  
More love, dead rose! than to such roses  
bold  
As Julia wears at dances, smiling cold!—  
Lie still upon this heart, which breaks  
below thee!

### LOVED ONCE.

I CLASSED, appraising once,  
Earth's lamentable sounds; the "well-  
a-day,"  
The jarring "yea" and "nay,"  
The fall of kisses on unanswering clay,  
The sobbed "farewell," the "welcome"  
mournfuler;—  
But all did leaven the air  
With a less bitter leaven of sure despair,  
Than these words—"I loved once."

And who saith, "I loved once?"  
Not angels, whose clear eyes love, love  
foresee,

Love through eternity!  
Who, by to love, do apprehend to be.  
Not God, called Love, his noble crown-  
name,—casting  
A light too broad for blasting!  
The Great God, changing not from ever  
lasting,  
Saith never, "I loved once."

Oh, never is "Loved once"  
Thy word, thou Victim-Christ, misprized  
friend?  
Thy cross and curse may rend;  
But, having loved, Thou lovest to the  
end!  
It is man's saying—man's! Too weak to  
move  
One sphered star above,  
Man desecrates the eternal God-word,  
love,  
With his "no more," and "once."

How say ye, "We loved once,"  
Blasphemers? Is your earth not cold  
enow,  
Mourners, without that snow?  
Ah, friends! and would ye wrong each  
other so?  
And could ye say of some, whose love is  
known,  
Whose prayers have met your own,  
Whose tears have fallen for you, whose  
smiles have shone,  
Such words, "We loved them once?"

Could ye "We loved her once"  
Say calm of me, sweet friends, when out  
of sight?  
When hearts of better right  
Stand in between me and your happy  
light?  
And when, as flowers kept too long in  
shade,  
Ye find my colours fade,  
And all that is not love in me, decayed?  
Such words, "Ye loved me once!"

Could ye "We loved her once"  
Say cold of me, when further put away  
In earth's sepulchral clay?  
When mute the lips which deprecate to  
day?—

Not so! not then—least then! When  
 life is shriven,  
 And death's full joy is given;  
 Of those who sit and love you up in  
 heaven  
 Say not, "We loved them once."

Say never, ye loved once!  
 God is too near above, the grave beneath,  
 And all our moments breathe  
 Too quick in mysteries of life and death,  
 For such a word. The eternities *avenge*  
 Affections light of range—  
 There comes no change to justify that  
 change,  
 Whatever comes—loved once!

And yet that same word "once"  
 Is humanly acceptive! Kings have said,  
 Shaking a discrowned head,  
 "We ruled once;"—dotards, "We once  
 taught and led;"—

Cripples once danced i' the vines; and  
 bards approved

Were once by scornings moved;  
 But love strikes one hour—love. Those  
 never loved

Who dream that they loved once.

~~~~~  
 [LORD MACAULAY. 1800—1859.]

HENRY OF NAVARRE.

Now glory to the Lord of hosts, from
 whom all glories are!

And glory to our Sovereign Liege, King
 Henry of Navarre!

Now let there be the merry sound of
 music and of dance,

Through thy corn-fields green, and sunny
 vines, oh pleasant land of France!

And thou, Rochelle, our own Rochelle,
 proud city of the waters,

Again let rapture light the eyes of all thy
 mourning daughters.

As thou wert constant in our ills, **be**
 joyous in our joy,

For cold, and stiff, and still are they who
 wrought thy walls annoy.

Hurrah! hurrah! a single field hath turned
 the chance of war,

Hurrah! hurrah! for Ivry, and King
 Henry of Navarre.

Oh! how our hearts were beating, when
 at the dawn of day

We saw the army of the League drawn out
 in long array;

With all its priest-led citizens, and all its
 rebel peers,

And Appenzel's stout infantry, and Eg-
 mont's Flemish spears.

There rode the brood of false Lorraine,
 the curses of our land!

And dark Mayenne was in the midst, a
 truncheon in his hand!

And as we looked on them, we thought of
 Seine's empurpled flood,

And good Coligni's hoary hair all dabbled
 with his blood;

And we cried unto the living God, who
 rules the fate of war,

To fight for his own holy name, and
 Henry of Navarre.

The King is come to marshal us, in all his
 armour drest,

And he has bound a snow-white plume
 upon his gallant crest.

He looked upon his people, and a tear
 was in his eye;

He looked upon the traitors, and his
 glance was stern and high.

Right graciously he smiled on us, as
 rolled from wing to wing,

Down all our line, a deafening shout,
 "God save our Lord the King!"

"And if my standard-bearer fall, as fall
 full well he may,

For never saw I promise yet of such a
 bloody fray,

Press where ye see my white plume shine,
 amidst the ranks of war,

And be your oriflamme to-day the helmet
 of Navarre."

Hurrah! the foes are moving. Hark to
 the mingled din

Of fife, and steed, and trump and drum,
 and roaring culverin!

The fiery Duke is pricking fast across
 Saint André's plain,

With all the hireling chivalry of Guelders
 and Almayne.

Now by the lips of those ye love, fair
 gentlemen of France,

* Charge for the Golden Lilies now—upon them with the lance !

A thousand spurs are striking deep, a thousand spears in rest,

A thousand knights are pressing close behind the snow-white crest ;

And in they burst, and on they rushed, while, like a guiding star,

Amidst the thickest carnage blazed the helmet of Navarre.

Now, God be praised, the day is ours ! Mayenne hath turned his rein.

D'Aumale hath cried for quarter. The Flemish Count is slain.

Their ranks are breaking like thin clouds before a Biscay gale ;

The field is heaped with bleeding steeds, and flags, and cloven mail ;

And then, we thought on vengeance, and, all along our van,

“Remember St. Bartholomew,” was passed from man to man ;

But out spake gentle Henry, “No Frenchman is my foe :

Down, down with every foreigner, but let your brethren go.”

Oh ! was there ever such a knight, in friendship or in war,

As our Sovereign Lord King Henry, the soldier of Navarre !

Ho ! maidens of Vienna ! Ho ! matrons of Lucerne !

Weep, weep, and rend your hair for those who never shall return.

Ho ! Philip, send, for charity, thy mexican pistoles,

That Antwerp monks may sing a mass for thy poor spearmen's souls !

Ho ! gallant nobles of the League, look that your arms be bright !

Ho ! burghers of Saint Genevieve, keep watch and ward to-night !

For our God hath crushed the tyrant, our God hath raised the slave,

And mocked the counsel of the wise, and the valour of the brave.

Then glory to His holy name, from whom all glories are ;

And glory to our Sovereign Lord, King Henry of Navarre !

THE ARMADA.

ATTEND, all ye who list to hear our noble England's praise :

I sing of the thrice famous deeds she wrought in ancient days,

When that great fleet invincible, against her bore, in vain,

The richest spoils of Mexico, the stoutest hearts in Spain.

It was about the lovely close of a warm summer's day,

There came a gallant merchant ship full sail to Plymouth bay ;

The crew had seen Castile's black fleet, beyond Aurigny's isle,

At earliest twilight, on the waves, lie heaving many a mile.

At sunrise she escaped their van, by God's especial grace ;

And the tall Pinta, till the noon, had held her close in chase.

Forthwith a guard, at every gun, was placed along the wall ;

The beacon blazed upon the roof of Edgecombe's lofty hall ;

Many a light fishing bark put out, to pry along the coast ;

And with loose rein, and bloody spur, rode inland many a post.

With his white hair, unbonnetted, the stout old sheriff comes,

Behind him march the halberdiers, before him scound the drums :

The yeomen, round the market cross, make clear and ample space,

For there behoves him to set up the standard of her grace :

And haughtily the trumpets peal, and gaily dance the bells,

As slow upon the labouring wind the royal blazon swells.

Look how the lion of the sea lifts up his ancient crown,

And underneath his deadly paw treads the gay lilies down !

So stalked he when he turned to flight, on that famed Picard field,

Bohemia's plume, and Genoa's bow, and Cæsar's eagle shield : R*

So glared he when, at Agincourt, in
 wrath he turned to bay,
 And crushed and torn, beneath his claws,
 the princely hunters lay.
 Ho ! strike the flagstaff deep, sir knight !
 ho ! scatter flowers, fair maids !
 Ho, gunners ! fire a loud salute ! ho,
 gallants ! draw your blades !
 Thou, sun, shine on her joyously ! ye
 breezes, waft her wide !
 Our glorious *semper eadem* ! the banner of
 our pride !

The fresh'ning breeze of eve unfurled
 that banner's massy fold—
 The parting gleam of sunshine kissed that
 haughty scroll of gold :
 Night sunk upon the dusky beach, and on
 the purple sea ;
 Such night in England ne'er had been,
 nor ne'er again shall be.
 From Eddystone to Berwick bounds,
 from Lynn to Milford bay,
 That time of slumber was as bright, as
 busy as the day ;
 For swift to east, and swift to west, the
 warning radiance spread—
 High on St. Michael's Mount it shone—it
 shone on Beachy Head :
 Far o'er the deep the Spaniard saw, along
 each southern shire,
 Cape beyond cape, in endless range,
 those twinkling points of fire.
 The fisher left his skiff to rock on Tamar's
 glittering waves,
 The rugged miners poured to war, from
 Mendip's sunless caves ;
 O'er Longleat's towers, or Cranbourne's
 oaks, the fiery herald flew,
 And roused the shepherds of Stonehenge
 —the rangers of Beaulieu.
 Right sharp and quick the bells rang out
 all night from Bristol town ;
 And, ere the day, three hundred horse
 had met on Clifton Down.

The sentinel on Whitehall gate looked
 forth into the night,
 And saw, o'erhanging Richmond Hill,
 that streak of blood-red light :
 The bugle's note, and cannon's roar, the
 death-like silence broke,

And with one start, and with one cry, the
 royal city woke ;
 At once, on all her stately gates, arose the
 answering fires ;
 At once the wild alarm clashed from all
 her reeling spires ;
 From all the batteries of the Tower pealed
 loud the voice of fear,
 And all the thousand masts of Thames
 sent back a louder cheer :
 And from the farthest wards was heard
 the rush of hurrying feet,
 And the broad streams of flags and pikes
 dashed down each rousing street :
 And broader still became the blaze, and
 louder still the din,
 As fast from every village round the horse
 came spurring in ;
 And eastward straight, for wild Black-
 heath, the warlike errand went ;
 And roused, in many an ancient hall, the
 gallant squires of Kent :
 Southward, for Surrey's pleasant hills,
 flew those bright coursers forth ;
 High on black Hampstead's swarthy
 moor, they started for the north ;
 And on, and on, without a pause, untired
 they bounded still ;
 All night from tower to tower they sprang,
 all night from hill to hill ;
 Till the proud peak unfurled the flag o'er
 Derwent's rocky dales ;
 Till, like volcanoes, flared to heaven the
 stormy hills of Wales ;
 Till, twelve fair counties saw the blaze on
 Malvern's lonely height ;
 Till streamed in crimson, on the wind,
 the Wrekin's crest of light ;
 Till, broad and fierce, the star came forth,
 on Ely's stately fane,
 And town and hamlet rose in arms, o'er
 all the boundless plain ;
 Till Belvoir's lordly towers the sign to
 Lincoln sent,
 And Lincoln sped the message on, o'er
 the wide vale of Trent ;
 Till Skiddaw saw the fire that burnt on
 Gaunt's embattled pile,
 And the red glare on Skiddaw roused the
 burghers of Carlisle.

[F. W. N. BAYLEY. 1820-1853.]

CHELSEA PENSIONERS READ
ING THE GAZETTE OF THE
BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

The golden gleam of a summer sun
Is lighting the elm-decked grove,
And the leaves of the old trees—every
one—

Are stirred with a song they love ;
For there bloweth a light breeze, whisper-
ing true,
Of the deeds they are doing at Waterloo !

The Chelsea veteran gathereth there,
Under the ancient sign ;
His meteor sword hath a stain of blood,
And his cheek is warm with wine
Fame he had wooed as a glorious bride,
When she waved with his white plume,
and clung to his side !

His comrades flock to their favourite
seat,
And their tale is of days gone by,
But their words—as weak as broken
hearts—
Are stifled by many a sigh !
For they drunk to those true friends who
scorned to yield,
And were left behind on the battle field !

But many a brighter say and song
Are gladdening all that scene,
And joy comes, like a singing bird,
To light the village green !
And groups are gathered 'neath those
trees,
Round summer flowers—like summer
bees !

The soldier ! with his mark of war—
The medal on his breast !—
Star of the brave that decks him now,
When his sword is laid to rest !
And the iron sheath is worn away,
That was tenantless on the battle day !

The stripling too, that hath not sinned
And so can laugh and sing !

Child, whom the world hath not yet
touched,
Like a serpent, with its sting !
The young in hope—the conscience-free !
The beautiful in infancy !

And mothers too, whose measured
love
Blends all the pure and mild,
And pours itself from one deep fount
On father and on child !
And ancient grandames just as glad,
And proud of charms their daughters
had !

The young and old—the fair and
brave—
Are congregated here,
And they all look out with an anxious
gaze
On mingled hope and fear !
As the weaned sailor looks for land,
When the bark speeds on and the gales
are bland

Now gaze again !—A lancer comes
With a spur in his courser's side,
That speeds towards th' expecting
group
As a lover bounds to his bride !
He bringeth the news, and their hearts
beat high—
The news of a glorious victory !

Father and brother, and betrothed—
The husband and the son !
That lancer bold hath a tale to tell
To the friends of every one.
“ Their swords were bright—their hearts
were true—
They have won the field of Waterloo ! ”

Oh ! when the heart is very glad,
It leaps like a little child
That is just released from a weary task,
With a spirit free and wild.
It fluttereth like a prisoned bird,
When tidings such as these are heard !

A low sound—like a murmured prayer !
Then, a cheer that rends the sky !
A loud huzza—like a people's shout
When a good king passeth by !—
R * P

As the roar of waves on an angry main
Breaks forth, and then all is mute again !

The lancer looks in the veteran's face,
And hands him the written scroll ;
And the old man reads with a quiv'ring
voice,

The words of that muster-roll,
As they wake a smile, or force a sigh,
From many an anxious stander-by.

If the father's boy be laurel-crowned,
He glories in his name ;
If the mother hath lost her only son,
She little heeds his fame !
And the lonely girl, whose lover sleeps,
Droops in her beauty, and only weeps !

But if a few have blighted hopes,
And hearts forlorn and sad !
How many of that mingled group
Doth that great victory glad ?
Who bless—for *their* dear sakes—the day
Whom toil and war kept far away ?

If parting words—like arrows—fixed
In their breasts the barb of pain,
Now fancy—like a painter—draws
The welcome home again !
And some who ne'er held cup of bliss,
Sup full of happiness from this !

The Highland pipe is pouring out
Its music like a stream !
And the sound of its startling revelry
Wakes many from a dream !
And now breaks forth another cry
Of overwhelming ecstasy !

The cup is filled, and the wine goes
round,
And it foameth to the brim ;
And young and old, and grave and gay,
All shout a health to him
Who brings these tidings glad and true—
Then—"Wellington and Waterloo !"

"And those who fought, and those
who fell,
And those who bravely died !
And those who bore our banners high,
And battled side by side ! [true
And those whose hearts and swords were
With Wellington and Waterloo !"

[ARTHUR HUGH CLOUGH. 1819—1861.]

GREEN FIELDS OF ENGLAND.

GREEN fields of England ! wheresoe'er
Across this watery waste we fare,
Gone image at our hearts we bear,
Green fields of England, everywhere.

Sweet eyes in England, I must flee
Past where the waves' last confines be
Ere your loved smile I cease to see,
Sweet eyes in England, dear to me.

Dear home in England, safe and fast
If but in thee my lot lie cast,
The past shall seem a nothing past
To thee, dear home, if won at last ;
Dear home in England, won at last.

O STREAM DESCENDING TO THE SEA.

O STREAM descending to the sea,
Thy mossy banks between,
The flow'rets blow, the grasses grow,
Thy leafy trees are green.

In garden plots the children play,
The fields the labourers till,
And houses stand on either hand,
And thou descendest still.

O life descending into death,
Our waking eyes behold,
Parent and friend thy lapse attend,
Companions young and old.

Strong purposes our minds possess,
Our hearts affections fill,
We toil and earn, we seek and learn,
And thou descendest still.

O end to which our currents tend,
Inevitable sea,
To which we flow, what do we know
What shall we guess of thee ?

A roar we hear upon thy shore,
As we our course fulfil ;
Scarce we divine a sun will shine,
And be above us still.

[ROBERT BROWNING.]

HOW THEY BROUGHT THE
GOOD NEWS FROM GHENT
TO AIX.

I SPRANG to the stirrup, and Joris, and
he ;
I galloped, Dirck galloped, we galloped
all three ;
"Good speed !" cried the watch, as the
gate-bolts undrew ;
"Speed !" echoed the wall to us galloping
through ;
Behind shut the postern, the lights sank
to rest,
And into the midnight we galloped
abreast.

Not a word to each other ; we kept the
great pace
Neck by neck, stride by stride, never
changing our place ;
I turned in my saddle and made its girths
tight,
Then shortened each stirrup, and set the
pique right,
Rebuckled the check-strap, chained
slacker the bit,
Nor galloped less steadily Roland a
whit.

'Twas moonset at starting ; but while we
drew near
Lokeren, the cocks crew, and twilight
dawned clear ;
At Boom, a great yellow star came out to
see ;
At Duffeld, 'twas morning as plain as
could be ;
And from Mecheln church-steeple we
heard the half chime,
So Joris broke silence with "Yet there
is time !"

At Aerschot, up leaped of a sudden the
sun,
And against him the cattle stood black
every one,
To stare through the mist at us galloping
past,
And I saw my stout galloper Roland at
last,

With resolute shoulders, each butting
away
The haze, as some bluff river headland its
spray.

And his low head and crest, just one
sharp ear bent back
For my voice, and the other pricked out
on his track ;
And one eye's black intelligence—ever
that glance
O'er its white edge at me, his own master,
askance !
And the thick heavy spume-flakes which
aye and anon
His fierce lips shook upwards in galloping
on.

By Hasselt, Dirck groaned ; and cried
Joris, "Stay spur !
Your Ross galloped bravely, the fault's
not in her,
We'll remember at Aix"—for one heard
the quick wheeze
Of her chest, saw her stretched neck and
staggering knees,
And sunk tail, and horrible heave of the
flank,
As down on her haunches she shuddered
and sank.

So we were left galloping, Joris and I,
Past Looz and past Tongres, no cloud in
the sky ;
The broad sun above laughed a pitiless
laugh,
'Neath our feet broke the brittle bright
stubble like chaff ;
Till over by Dalhem a dome-spire sprang
white,
And "Gallop" gasped Joris, "for Aix
is in sight !"

"How they'll greet us !" and all in a
moment his roan
Rolled neck and crop over ; lay dead as a
stone ;
And there was my Roland to bear the
whole weight
Of the news which alone could save Aix
from her fate,

With his nostrils like pits full of blood to
the brim,
And with circles of red for his eye-
socket's rim.

Then I cast loose my buff-coat, each
holster let fall,
Shook off both my jack-boots, let go belt
and all,
Stood up in the stirrup, leaned, patted
his ear,
Called my Roland his pet-name, my
horse without peer ;
Clapped my hands, laughed and sang,
any noise, bad or good,
Till at length into Aix Roland galloped
and stood.

And all I remember is, friends flocking
round
As I sat with his head 'twixt my knees on
the ground,
And no voice but was praising this Ro-
land of mine,
As I poured down his throat our last
measure of wine,
Which (the burgesses voted by common
consent)
Was no more than his due who brought
good news from Ghent.

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN.

HAMELIN Town's in Brunswick,
By famous Hanover city ;
The river Weser, deep and wide,
Washes its wall on the southern side ;
A pleasanter spot you never spied ;
But, when begins my ditty,
Almost five hundred years ago,
To see the townsfolk suffer so
From vermin was a pity.

Rats !

They fought the dogs, and killed the
cats,
And bit the babies in the cradles,
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,
And licked the soup from the cook's
own ladles,
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,

And even spoiled the woman's chata,
By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking
In fifty different sharps and flats.

At last the people in a body
To the Town Hall came flocking ;
" 'Tis clear," cried they, "our Mayor's
a noddy ;
And as for our Corporation—shock-
ing
To think we buy gowns lin'd with
ermine
For dolts that can't or won't determine
What's best to rid us of our vermin !
You hope, because you're old and
obese,
To find in the furry civic robe ease ?
Rouse up, sirs ! Give your brains a
racking
To find the remedy we're lacking,
Or, sure as fate, we'll send you pack-
ing ! "

At this the Mayor and Corporation
Quaked with a mighty consternation.

An hour they sate in council,
At length the Mayor broke silence :
" For a gulder I'd my ermine gown
sell ;

I wish I were a mile hence !
It's easy to bid one rack one's brain—
I'm sure my poor head aches again
I've scratched it so, and all in vain,
Oh for a trap, a trap, a trap ! "

Just as he said this, what should hap
At the chamber door but a gentle tap ?
" Bless us," cried the Mayor, " what's
that ? "

(With the Corporation as he sat,
Looking little though wondrous fat ;
Nor brighter was his eye, nor moister,
Than a too-long-opened oyster,
Save when at noon his paunch grew mu-
tinous

For a plate of turtle green and glutinous),
" Only a scraping of shoes on the
mat ? "

Anything like the sound of a rat
Makes my heart go pit-a-pat ! "

" Come in ! "—the Mayor cried, look-
ing bigger :

And in did come the strangest figure

His queer long coat from heel to head
Was half of yellow and half of red ;
And he himself was tall and thin,
With sharp blue eyes, each like a pin,
And light loose hair, yet swarthy skin,
No tuft on cheek nor beard on chin,
But lips where smiles went out and in—
There was no guessing his kith and
kin !

And nobody could enough admire
The tall man and his quaint attire.
Quoth one : " It's as my great grand-
sire,
Starting up at the Trump of Doom's
tone,
Had walked this way from his painted
tombstone."

He advanced to the council-table :

And, " Please your honours," said he,
" I'm able,

By means of a secret charm, to draw
All creatures living beneath the sun,
That creep, or swim, or fly, or run,
After me so as you never saw !
And I chiefly use my charm
On creatures that do people harm,
The mole, and toad, and newt, and
viper ;

And people call me the Pied Piper."

(And here they noticed round his neck
A scarf of red and yellow stripe,
To match with his coat of the self same
cheque ;

And at the scarf's end hung a pipe ;
And his fingers, they noticed, were *ever*
straying

As if impatient to be playing
Upon this pipe, as low it dangled
Over his vesture so old-fangled.)

" Yet," said he, " poor piper as I am,
In Tartary I freed the Cham,
Last June, from his huge swarms of
gnats ;

I eased in Asia the Nizam [bats :
Of a monstrous brood of vampyre
And, as for what your brain bewilders,
If I can rid your town of rats
Will you give me a thousand guilders ?"

" One ? fifty thousand !"—was the ex-
clamation

Of the astonished Mayor and Corpora-
tion.

Into the street the Piper stept,

Smiling first a little smile,
As if he knew what magic slept
In his quiet pipe the while ;
Then, like a musical adept,
To blow the pipe his lips he wrinkled,
And green and blue his sharp eyes
twinkled

Like a candle flame where salt is
sprinkled ;

And ere three shrill notes the pipe
uttered,

You heard as if an army muttered ;
And the muttering grew to a grum-
bling ;

And the grumbling grew to a mighty
rumbling ;

And out of the house the rats came
tumbling.

Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny
rats,

Brown rats, black rats, gray rats,
tawny rats,

Grave old plodders, gay young friskers,
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,

Families by tens and dozens,
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives—
Followed the Piper for their lives.

From street to street he piped advan-
cing,

And step by step they followed dan-
cing,

Until they came to the river Weser
Wherein all plunged and perished

—Save one, who, stout as Julius
Cesar,

Swam across and lived to carry
(As he the manuscript he cherished)

To Rat-land home his commentary,
Which was, " At the first shrill notes
of the pipe,

I heard a sound as of scraping tripe,
And putting apples, wondrous ripe,
Into a cider-press's gripe ;

And a moving away of pickle-tub-
boards,

And a leaving ajar of conserve cup-
boards,

And a drawing the corks of train-oil-
flasks,

And a breaking the hoops of butter
casks ;

And it seemed as if a voice
(Sweeter far than by harp or by psal-
tery

Is breathed) called out, Oh! rats, re-
joice!

The world is grown to one vast dry-
saltery!

To munch on, crunch on, take your
nuncheon,

Breakfast, supper, dinner, luncheon!

And just as a bulky sugar puncheon,
All ready staved, like a great sun
shone

Glorious scarce an inch before me,
Just as methought it said, come, bore
me!

—I found the Weser rolling o'er me."

You should have heard the Hamelin
people

Ringing the bells till they rocked the
steeple.

"Go," cried the Mayor, "and get
long poles!

Poke out the nests and block up the
holes!

Consult with carpenters and builders,
And leave in our town not even a
trace

Of the rats!"—when suddenly up the
face

Of the Piper perked in the market-
place,

With a, "First, if you please, my thou-
sand guilders!"

A thousand guilders! The Mayor looked
blue;

So did the Corporation too.

For council dinners made rare havock

With Claret, Moselle, Vin-de-Grave,
Hock;

And half the money would replenish

Their cellar's biggest butt with Rhenish.

To pay this sum to a wandering fellow

With a gipsy coat of red and yellow!

"Beside," quoth the Mayor, with a
knowing wink,

"Our business was done at the river's
brink;

We saw with our eyes the vermin sink,
And what's dead can't come to life, I
think.

So, friend, we're not the folks to shrink
From the duty of giving you some-
thing to drink,

And a matter of money to put in your
poke;

But, as for the guilders, what we
spoke

Of them, as you very well know, was
in joke.

Beside, our losses have made us thrifty;
A thousand guilders! Come, take
fifty!"

The piper's face fell, and he cried,

"No trifling! I can't wait, beside!

I've promised to visit by dinner-time

Bagdad, and accepted the prime

Of the Head Cook's pottage, all he's
rich in,

For having left, in the Caliph's kitchen,

Of a nest of scorpions no survivor—

With him I proved no bargain-driver,

With you, don't think I'll bate a stiver!

And folks who put me in a passion

May find me pipe to another fashion."

"How?" cried the Mayor, "d'ye
think I'll brook

Being worse treated than a Cook?

Insulted by a lazy ribald

With idle pipe and vesture piebald?

You threaten us, fellow? Do your
worst,

Blow your pipe there till you burst!"

Once more he stept into the street;

And to his lips again

Laid his long pipe of smooth straight
cane;

And ere he blew three notes (such
sweet

Soft notes as yet musicians cunning

Never gave the enraptured air),

There was a rustling, that seemed like a
bustling

Of merry crowds justling, at pitching and
hustling,

Small feet were pattering, wooden shoes
clattering,

Little hands clapping, and little tongues
chattering,

And, like fowls in a farm-yard whe
barley is scattering,

Out came the children running,
All the little boys and girls,
With rosy cheeks and flaxen curls,
And sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls,
Tripping and skipping, ran merrily after
The wonderful music with shouting and
laughter.

The Mayor was dumb, and the Council
stood
As if they were changed into blocks of
wood,

Unable to move a step, or cry
To the children merrily skipping by—
And could only follow with the eye
That joyous crowd at the Piper's back.
But how the Mayor was on the rack,
And the wretched Council's bosoms beat,
As the Piper turned from the High
Street

To where the Weser rolled its waters
Right in the way of their sons and
daughters!

However he turned from South to West,
And to Koppelberg Hill his steps ad-
dressed,

And after him the children pressed;
Great was the joy in every breast.

"He never can cross that mighty top!

He's forced to let the piping drop,

And we shall see our children stop!"

When lo! as they reached the mountain's
side,

A wondrous portal opened wide,
As if a cavern was suddenly hollowed;
And the Piper advanced and the children
followed,

And when all were in to the very last,
The door in the mountain-side shut fast.
Did I say all? No! one was lame,
And could not dance the whole of the
way;

And in after years, if you would blame
His sadness, he was used to say,—

"It's dull in our town since my play-
mates left;

I can't forget that I'm bereft

Of all the pleasant sights they see,

Which the Piper also promised me;

For he led us, he said, to a joyous land,

Joining the town and just at hand,

Where waters gushed and fruit trees
grew,

And flowers put forth a fairer hue,
And everything was strange and new;
The sparrows were brighter than pea-
cocks here,

And their dogs outran our fallow deer,
And honey-bees had lost their stings;
And horses were born with eagle's wings;
And just as I became assured

My lame foot would be speedily cured,
The music stopped, and I stood still,

And found myself outside the Hill,
Left alone against my will,

To go now limping as before,

And never hear of that country more!"

Alas, alas for Hamelin!

There came into many a burgher's pate

A text which says, that Heaven's Gate

Opes to the Rich at as easy rate

As the needle's eye takes a camel in!

The Mayor sent East, West, North, and
South,

To offer the Piper by word of mouth,

Wherever it was men's lot to find him,

Silver and gold to his heart's content,

If he'd only return the way he went,

And bring the children all behind him.

But when they saw 'twas a lost endeavour,

And Piper and dancers were gone for
ever,

They made a decree that lawyers never

Should think their records dated duly

If, after the day of the month and year,

These words did not as well appear,

"And so long after what happened
here

On the twenty-second of July,

Thirteen hundred and seventy-six:"

And the better in memory to fix

The place of the Children's last retreat,

They called it, the Pied Piper's street—

Where any one playing on pipe or
tabor,

Was sure for the future to lose his labour

Nor suffered they hostility or tavern

To shock with mirth a street so solemn;
But opposite the place of the cavern

They wrote the story on a column,

And on the great church window painted

The same, to make the world acquainted

How their children were stolen away;

And there it stands to this very day.

And I must not omit to say

That in Transylvania there's a tribe
Of alien people that ascribe
The outlandish ways and dress,
On which their neighbours lay such stress,
To their fathers and mothers having risen
Out of some subterranean prison,
Into which they were trepanned
Long time ago in a mighty band
Out of Hamelin town in Brunswick land,
But how or why they don't understand.

So, Willy, let you and me be wipers
Of scores out with all men—especially
pipers :
And, whether they pipe us free from rats
or from mice,
If we've promised them aught, let us keep
our promise.

EVELYN HOPE.

BEAUTIFUL Evelyn Hope is dead—
Sit and watch by her side an hour,
That is her book-shelf, this her bed ;
She plucked that piece of geranium
flower,

Beginning to die, too, in the glass.
Little has yet been changed, I think—
The shutters are shut, no light may pass,
Save two long rays through the hinge's
chink.

Sixteen years old when she died !
Perhaps she had scarcely heard my
name—

It was not her time to love : beside,
Her life had many a hope and aim,
Duties enough and little cares,
And now was quiet, now astir—
Till God's hand beckoned unawares,
And the sweet white brow is all of her.

Is it too late, then, Evelyn Hope ?
What, your soul was pure and true,
The good stars met in your horoscope,
Made you of spirit, fire, and dew—
And just because I was thrice as old,
And our paths in the world diverged so
wide,
Each was nought to each, must I be told ?
We were fellow-mortals, nought be-
side ?

No, indeed ! for God above
Is great to grant, as mighty to make,
And creates the love to reward the
love,—
I claim you still, for my own love's
sake !
Delayed it may be for more lives yet,
Through worlds I shall traverse, not a
few—
Much is to learn and much to forget
Ere the time be come for taking you.

But the time will come,—at last it
will,
When, Evelyn Hope, what meant, I
shall say,
In the lower earth, in the years long
still,
That body and soul so pure and
gay ?
Why your hair was amber, I shall divine,
And your mouth of your own gera-
nium's red—
And what you would do with me, in
fine,
In the new life come in the old one's
stead.

I have lived, I shall say, so much since
then,
Given up myself so many times,
Gained me the gains of various men,
Ransacked the ages, spoiled the climes ;
Yet one thing, one, in my soul's full
scope,
Either I missed or itself missed me—
And I want and find you, Evelyn
Hope !
What is the issue ? let us see !

I loved you, Evelyn, all the while ;
My heart seemed full as it could hold—
There was space and to spare for the
frank young smile,
And the red young mouth, and the
hair's young gold.
So hush,—I will give you this leaf to
keep,—
See, I shut it inside the sweet cold
hand.
There, that is our secret ! go to sleep ;
You will wake, and remember, and
understand.

[REV. CHARLES KINGSLEY.]

THE SANDS OF DEE.

"Oh, Mary, go and call the cattle
home,
And call the cattle home,
And call the cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee."
The western wind was wild and dark
with foam,
And all alone went she.
The western tide crept up along the
sand,
And o'er and o'er the sand,
And round and round the sand,
As far as eye could see.
The rolling mist came down and hid the
land :
And never home came she.
"Oh ! is it weed, or fish, or floating
hair—
A tress of golden hair,
A drowned maiden's hair,
Above the nets at sea ?"
Was never salmon yet that shone so fair
Among the stakes of Dee.
They rowed her in across the rolling
foam,
The cruel crawling foam,
The cruel hungry foam,
To her grave beside the sea.
But still the boatmen hear her call the
cattle home,
Across the sands of Dee.

THREE FISHERS.

THREE fishers went sailing out into the
west,
Out into the west, as the sun went
down,
Each thought of the woman who loved
him best,
And the children stood watching them
out of the town ;
For men must work, and women must
weep,
And there's little to earn, and many to
keep,
Though the harbour-bar be moaning.

Three wives sat up in the lighthouse
tower,
And they trimmed the lamps as the sun
went down ;
They looked at the squall, and they
looked at the shower,
And the night-rack came rolling up
ragged and brown ;
But men must work, and women must
weep,
Though storms be sudden, and waters
deep,
And the harbour-bar be moaning.

Three corpses lie out in the shining
sands,
In the morning gleam, as the tide goes
down,
And the women are weeping and wring-
ing their hands,
For those who will never come home
to the town.
For men must work, and women must
weep,
And the sooner it's over, the sooner to
sleep,
And good-bye to the bar and its
moaning.

[CHARLES SWAIN.]

WHAT IS NOBLE ?

WHAT is noble ?—to inherit
Wealth, estate, and proud degree ?—
There must be some other merit
Higher yet than these for me !—
Something greater far must enter
Into life's majestic span,
Fitted to create and centre
True nobility in man.

What is noble ?—'tis the finer
Portion of our mind and heart,
Linked to something still diviner
Than mere language can impart :
Ever prompting—ever seeing
Some improvement yet to plan ;
To uplift our fellow being,
And, like man, to feel for Man !

What is noble?—is the sabre
 Nobler than the humble spade?—
 There's a dignity in labour
 Truer than e'er pomp arrayed !
 He who seeks the mind's improvement
 Aids the world, in aiding mind !
 Every great commanding movement
 Serves not one, but all mankind.

O'er the forge's heat and ashes,—
 O'er the engine's iron head,—
 Where the rapid shuttle flashes,
 And the spindle whirls its thread :
 There is labour, lowly tending
 Each requirement of the hour,—
 There is genius, still extending
 Science, and its world of power !

'Mid the dust, and speed, and clamour,
 Of the loom-shed and the mill ;
 'Midst the clink of wheel and hammer,
 Great results are growing still !
 Though too oft, by fashion's creatures,
 Work and workers may be blamed,
 Commerce need not hide its features,—
 Industry is not ashamed !

What is noble?—that which places
 Truth in its enfranchised will,
 Leaving steps, like angel-traces,
 That mankind may follow still !
 E'en though scorn's malignant glances
 Prove him poorest of his clan,
 He's the Noble—who advances
 Freedom, and the Cause of Man !

[B. W. PROCTER (BARRY CORNWALL).]

THE BEST OF ALL GOOD COMPANY.

SING !—Who sings
 To her who weareth a hundred rings ?
 Ah ! who is this lady fine ?
 The vine, boys, the vine !
 The mother of mighty wine.
 A roamer is she
 O'er wall and tree,
 And sometimes very good company.

Drink !—who drinks
 To her who blusheth and never thinks ?

Ah ! who is this maid of thine ?
 The grape, boys, the grape !
 Oh, never let her escape
 Until she be turned to wine
 For better is she
 Than vine can be,
 And very, very good company.

Dream !—who dreams
 Of the god who governs a thousand
 streams ?
 Ah ! who is this spirit fine ?
 'Tis wine, boys, 'tis wine !
 God Bacchus, a friend of mine.
 Oh, better is he
 Than grape or tree,
 And the best of all good company.

KING DEATH.

KING DEATH was a rare old fellow,
 He sat where no sun could shine,
 And he lifted his hand so yellow,
 And poured out his coal-black wine.
 Hurrah ! for the coal-black wine !

There came to him many a maiden
 Whose eyes had forgot to shine,
 And widows with grief o'erladen,
 For a draught of his coal-black wine.
 Hurrah ! for the coal-black wine !

The scholar left all his learning,
 The poet his fancied woes,
 And the beauty her bloom returning,
 Like life to the fading rose.
 Hurrah ! for the coal-black wine !

All came to the rare old fellow,
 Who laughed till his eyes dropped
 brine,
 And he gave them his hand so yellow,
 And pledged them in Death's black
 wine.
 Hurrah ! for the coal-black wine !

THE NIGHTS.

Oh, the Summer night
 Has a smile of light,
 And she sits on a sapphire throne .

Whilst the sweet winds load her
With garlands of odour,
From the bud to the rose o'er-blown !

But the Autumn night
Has a piercing sight,
And a step both strong and free ;
And a voice for wonder,
Like the wrath of the thunder,
When he shouts to the stormy sea !

And the Winter night
Is all cold and white,
And she singeth a song of pain ;
Till the wild bee hummeth,
And the warm Spring cometh,
When she dies in a dream of rain !

Oh, the night brings sleep
To the greenwoods deep,
To the birds of the woods its nest ;
To care soft hours,
To life new powers,
To the sick and the weary—rest !

SONG FOR TWILIGHT.

HIDE me, O twilight air !
Hide me from thought, from care,
From all things foul or fair,
Until to-morrow !
To-night I strive no more ;
No more my soul shall soar :
Come, sleep, and shut the door
'Gainst pain and sorrow !

If I must see through dreams,
Be mine Elysian gleams,
Be mine by morning streams
To watch and wander ;
So may my spirit cast
(Serpent-like) off the past,
And my free soul at last
Have leave to ponder.

And should'st thou 'scape control,
Ponder on love, sweet soul ;
On joy, the end and goal
Of all endeavour :
But if earth's pains will rise,
(As damps will seek the skies,)
Then, night, seal thou mine eyes,
In sleep for ever.

[HON. MRS. NORTON.]

LOVE NOT.

LOVE not, love not, ye hapless sons of
clay !

Hope's gayest wreaths are made of
earthly flowers—

Things that are made to fade and fall
away,

When they have blossomed but a few
short hours.

Love not, love not ! The thing you love
may die—

May perish from the gay and glad some
earth ;

The silent stars, the blue and smiling
sky,

Beam on its grave as once upon its
birth.

Love not, love not ! The thing you love
may change,

The rosy lip may cease to smile on
you ;

The kindly-beaming eye grow cold and
strange,

The heart still warmly beat, yet not be
true.

Love not, love not ! Oh warning vainly
said

In present years as in the years gone
by ;

Love flings a halo round the dear one's
head,

Faultless, immortal—till they change
or die.

NOT LOST, BUT GONE BEFORE.

How mournful seems, in broken dreams,
The memory of the day,

When icy Death hath sealed the breath
Of some dear form of clay.

When pale, unmoved, the face we loved,
The face we thought so fair,

And the hand lies cold, whose fervent
hold

Once charmed away despair.

Oh, what could heal the grief we feel
 For hopes that come no more,
 Had we ne'er heard the Scripture word,
 "Not lost, but gone before."

Oh sadly yet with vain regret
 The widowed heart must yearn;
 And mothers weep their babes asleep
 In the sunlight's vain return.

The brother's heart shall rue to part
 From the one through childhood known;
 And the orphan's tears lament for years
 A friend and father gone.

For death and life, with ceaseless strife,
 Beat wild on this world's shore,
 And all our calm is in that balm,
 "Not lost, but gone before."

Oh! world wherein nor death, nor sin,
 Nor weary warfare dwells;
 Their blessed home we parted from
 With sobs and sad farewells.

Where eyes awake, for whose dear sake
 Our own with tears grow dim,
 And faint accords of dying words
 Are changed for heaven's sweet hymn;

Oh! there at last, life's trials past,
 We'll meet our loved once more,
 Whose feet have trod the path to God—
 "Not lost, but gone before."

NONE REMEMBER THEE.

NONE remember thee! thou whose heart
 Poured love on all around;
 Thy name no anguish can impart—
 'Tis a forgotten sound.
 Thy old companions pass me by
 With a cold bright smile, and a vacant
 eye,
 And none remember thee
 Save me!

None remember thee! thou wert not
 Beauteous as some things are;
 My glory beamed upon thy lot,
 My pale and quiet star!

Like a winter bud that too soon hath
 burst,
 Thy cheek was fading from the first—
 And none remember thee
 Save me!

None remember thee! they could spy
 Nought when they gazed on thee,
 But thy soul's deep love in thy quiet
 eye—
 It hath passed from their memory.
 The gifts of genius were not thine,
 Proudly before the world to shine—
 And none remember thee
 Save me!

None remember thee now thou'rt gone!
 Or they could not choose but weep,
 When they thought of thee, my gentle
 one,
 In thy long and lonely sleep.
 Fain would I murmur thy name, and tell
 How fondly together we used to dwell—
 But none remember thee
 Save me!

SONG OF THE PEASANT WIFE.

COME, Patrick, clear up the storms on
 your brow;
 You were kind to me once—will you
 frown on me now?—
 Shall the storm settle here, when from
 heaven it departs,
 And the cold from without find its way
 to our hearts?
 No, Patrick, no! sure the wintriest
 weather
 Is easily borne when we bear it together.
 Though the rain's dropping through, from
 the roof to the floor,
 And the wind whistles free where there
 once was a door,
 Can the rain, or the snow, or the storm
 wash away
 All the warm vows we made in our love's
 early day?
 No, Patrick, no! sure the dark storm
 weather
 Is easily borne, if we bear it together.

When you stole out to woo me when
labour was done,
And the day that was closing to us seemed
begun,
Did we care if the sunset was bright on
the flowers,
Or if we crept out amid darkness and
showers?
No, Patrick! we talked, while we baved
the wild weather,
Of all we could bear, if we bore it to-
gether.

Soon, soon, will these dark dreary days
be gone by,
And our hearts be lit up with a beam from
the sky!
Oh, let not our spirits, embittered with
pain,
Be dead to the sunshine that came to us
then!
Heart in heart, hand in hand, let us wel-
come the weather,
And, sunshine or storm, we will bear it
together.

OH! DISTANT STARS.

OH! distant stars, whose tranquil light
Looks down on all the world at rest,
From new-born babes, whose welcome
night
Is cradled on the mother's breast,
To many a long-neglected grave
In many a churchyard's narrow bound,
And many a ship on trackless waves
Whose course by that sweet light is
found;
Clear gleaming stars! clear gleaming
stars!
Emblem of God's protecting love,
Ye watch us from your realms above.

Your light is on the Northern snow
Where never trod the foot of man;
Ye shine where lonely rivers flow
On white wings of the sleeping swan.
Ye guide (with trembling rays and dim)
The beggar who dejected roams
Past fires that glow, but not for him
The household smile of happy homes.

Oh, steadfast stars! oh, steadfast
stars!
Emblem of God's all-seeing eye,
Ye watch him from your world on
high.

Oh, stars! memorial of the night,
When first to simple shepherds beamed
That glory, past your common light,
The portent of a world redeemed;
Still watch our living and our dead,
And link the thoughts of sinful earth
With that sweet light whose radiance shed
A halo round the Saviour's birth.
Pure, holy stars! Pure, holy stars!
Emblem of hope and sins forgiven,
Still watch us from your distant
Heaven!

[PHILIP JAMES BAILEY.]

LOVE OF GOD AND MAN.

LOVE is the happy privilege of the mind—
Love is the reason of all living things.
A Trinity there seems of principles,
Which represent and rule created life—
The love of self, our fellows, and our
God.
In all throughout one common feeling
reigns:
Each doth maintain, and is maintained by
the other:
All are compatible—all needful; one
To life,—to virtue one,—and one to bliss:
Which thus together make the power, the
end,
And the perfection of created Being.
From these three principles doth every
deed,
Desire, and will, and reasoning, good or
bad, come; [scheme or
To these they all determine—sum and
The three are one in centre and in round;
Wrapping the world of life as do the skies
Our world. Hail! air of love, by which
we live!
How sweet, how fragrant! Spirit, though
unseen—
Void of gross sign—is scarce a simp-
essence,
Immortal, immaterial, though it be.

One only simple essence liveth—God,—
 Creator, uncreate. The brutes beneath,
 The angels high above us, with ourselves,
 Are but compounded things of mind and
 form.

In all things animate is therefore cored
 An elemental sameness of existence ;
 For God, being Love, in love created all,
 As he contains the whole and penetrates.
 Seraphs love God, and angels love the
 good :

We love each other ; and these lower
 lives,

Which walk the earth in thousand diverse
 shapes,

According to their reason, love us too :

The most intelligent affect us most.

Nay, man's chief wisdom's love—the love
 of God.

The new religion—final, perfect, pure—
 Was that of Christ and love. His great
 command—

His all-sufficing precept—was't not love ?
 Truly to love ourselves we must love
 God,—

To love God we must all his creatures
 love,—

To love his creatures, both ourselves and
 Him.

Thus love is all that's wise, fair, good,
 and happy !

(ELEANORA LOUISA HERVEY.)

BE STILL, BE STILL, POOR HUMAN HEART.

BE still, be still, poor human heart,
 What fitful fever shakes thee now ?
 The earth's most lovely things depart—
 And what art thou ?
 Thy spring than earth's doth sooner fade,
 Thy blossoms first with poison fill ;
 To sorrow born, for suffering made,
 Poor heart ! be still.

Thou lookest to the clouds,—they fleet ;
 Thou turnest to the waves,—they falter ;
The flower that decks the shrine, though
 sweet,
 Dies on its altar :

And thou, more changeful than the cloud
 More restless than the wandering rill,
 Like that lone flower in silence bowed,
 Poor heart ! be still.

LOVE AND MAY.

WITH buds and thorns about her brow,
 I met her in the woods of May
 Bending beneath a loaded bough.
 She seemed so young, and was so fair,
 A rosy freshness in her air
 Spoke morning gliding into day.

Wild as an untamed bird of Spring,
 She sported 'mid the forest ways,
 Whose blossoms pale did round her cling
 Blithe was she as the banks of June,
 Where humming-bees kept sweetest tune
 The soul of love was in her lays.

Her words fell soft upon my ear,
 Like dropping dew from leafy spray :
 She knew no shame, and felt no fear ;
 She told me how her childhood grew—
 Her joys how keen, her cares how few :
 She smiled, and said her name was
 May.

May of my heart ! Oh, darling May !
 Thy form is with the shows that fleet ;
 And I am weak, and worn, and grey !
 I see no more the things I loved :
 The paths wherein their beauty moved
 Do seem to fail beneath my feet.

I marked her for a little space ;
 And soon she seemed to heed me not,
 But gathered flowers before my face.
 Oh, sweet to me her untaught ways !
 The love I bore her all my days
 Was born of that wild woodland spot.

I never called her bride nor wife,
 I watched her bloom a little more,
 And then she faded out of life :
 She quaffed the wave I might not drink,
 And I stood thirsting on the brink !
 Oh, hurrying tide !—Oh, dreary shore !

They knew not that my heart was torn ;
 They said a fever left me mad,
 And I had babbled of a thorn,
 A withered May, and scattered bloom,
 A well of tears, and wayside tomb—
 Alas! 'twas all the lore I had!

And to this day I am not clear ;
 My stricken mind doth grope its way,
 Like those who walk where woods are
 sere :

I cannot see to set apart
 Two things so crushed into my heart
 As May and Love—and Love and May!

Still, shouting 'neath the greenwood tree,
 Glad children called upon her name ;
 But life and time are changed to me :
 The grass is growing where she trod,
 Above her head a bladeless sod—
 The very earth is not the same.

Oh, heavy years, grow swift and brief !
 Death, lay thine hand upon my brow !
 I wither as a shrunk-up leaf.
 I perished while my days were young :
 The thoughts to which my spirit clung
 Consumed me, like a sapless bough.

And now, O May! my vanished May!
 Our thorns are gathered one by one,
 And all their bloom is borne away.
 The corn is reaped, the sheaf is bound,
 The gleaner's foot is on the ground,
 And pain is past—and life is done!

[ALFRED TENNYSON.]

LOVE AND DEATH.

WHAT time the mighty moon was gather-
 ing light,
 Love paced the thymy plots of Paradise,
 And all about him rolled his lustrous
 eyes ;
 When, turning round a cassia, full in
 view,
 Death, walking all alone beneath a yew,
 And talking to himself, first met his
 sight :
 "You must begone," said Death, "these
 walks are mine."

Love wept and spread his sheeny vans for
 flight ;
 Yet, ere he parted, said,— "This hour is
 thine :
 Thou art the shadow of life ; and as the
 tree
 Stands in the sun and shadows all
 beneath,
 So in the light of great eternity
 Life eminent creates the shade of death ;
 The shadow passeth when the tree shall
 fall,
 But I shall reign for ever over all."

THE BUGLE SONG.

The splendour falls on castle walls
 And snowy summits, old in story :
 The long light shakes across the lakes,
 And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
 Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes
 flying,
 Blow, bugle ; answer, echoes, dying, dying,
 dying.

O hark, O hear! how thin and clear,
 And thinner, clearer, farther going !
 O sweet and far from cliff and scar
 The horns of Elfland faintly blowing!
 Blow, let us hear the purple glens re-
 playing :
 Blow, bugle ; answer, echoes, dying, dying,
 dying.

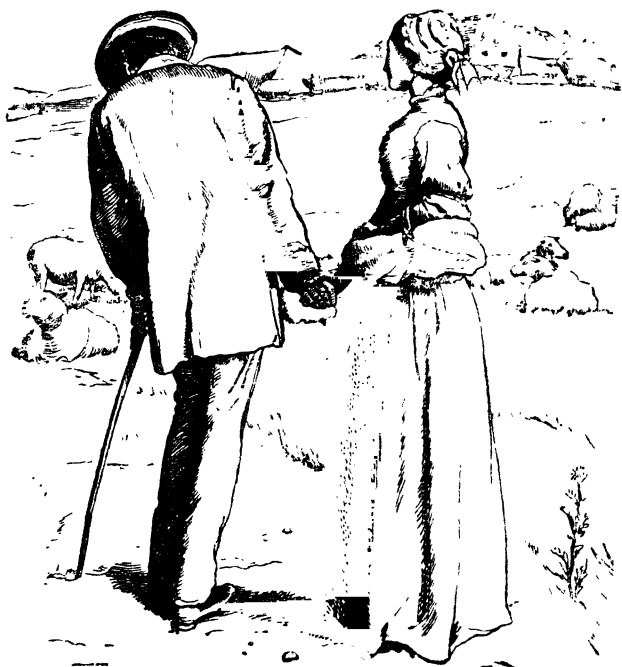
O love, they die in yon rich sky,
 They faint on hill or field or river :
 Our echoes roll from soul to soul,
 And grow for ever and for ever.
 Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes
 flying,
 And answer, echoes, answer, dying, dying,
 dying.

GODIVA.

*I waited for the train at Coventry ;
 I hung with grooms and porters on the
 bridge,
 To watch the three tall spires ; and there I
 shaped
 The city's ancient legend into this :—*

Not only we, the latest seed of Time,
 New men, that in the flying of a wheel
 Cry down the past, not only we, that
 prate
 Of rights and wrongs, have loved the
 people well,
 And loathed to see them overtaxed ; but
 she
 Did more, and underwent, and overcame,
 The woman of a thousand summers back,
 Godiva, wife to that grim Earl, who
 ruled
 In Coventry : for when he laid a tax
 Upon his town, and all the mothers
 brought
 Their children, clamouring, " If we pay,
 we starve !"
 She sought her lord, and found him,
 where he strode
 About the hall, among his dogs, alone,
 His beard a foot before him, and his
 hair
 A yard behind. She told him of their
 tears,
 And prayed him, " If they pay this tax,
 they starve."
 Whereat he stared, replying, half-amazed,
 " You would not let your little finger
 ache
 For such as *these* ?"—" But I would die,"
 said she.
 He laughed, and swore by Peter and by
 Paul :
 Then filiped at the diamond in her ear ;
 ' O ay, ay, ay, you talk !"—" Alas !" she
 said,
 " But prove me what it is I would not
 do."
 And from a heart as rough as Esau's
 hand,
 He answered, " Ride you naked thro' the
 town,
 And I repeal it ;" and nodding, as in
 scorn,
 He parted, with great strides among his
 dogs.
 So left alone, the passions of her mind,
 As winds from all the compass shift and
 blow,
 Made war upon each other for an hour,
 Till pity won. She sent a herald forth,
 And bade him cry, with sound of trumpet
 all

The hard condition ; but that she would
 loose
 The people : therefore, as they loved her
 well,
 From then till noon no foot should pace
 the street,
 No eye look down, she passing ; but
 that all
 Should keep within, door shut, and window
 barred.
 Then fled she to her inmost bower, and
 there
 Unclassed the wedded eagles of her belt,
 The grim Earl's gift ; but ever at a
 breath
 She lingered, looking like a summer
 moon
 Half dipt in cloud : anon she shook her
 head,
 And showered the rippled ringlets to her
 knee ;
 Unclad herself in haste ; adown the stair
 Stole on ; and, like a creeping sunbeam,
 slid
 From pillar unto pillar, until she reached
 The gateway ; there she found her palfrey
 trapt
 In purple, blazoned with armorial gold.
 Then she rode forth, clothed on with
 chastity :
 The deep air listened round her as she
 rode,
 And all the low wind hardly breathed for
 fear.
 The little wide-mouthed heads upon the
 spout
 Had cunning eyes to see : the barking
 cur
 Made her cheek flame : her palfrey's foot-
 fall shot
 Light horrors thro' her pulses : the blind
 walls
 Were full of chinks and holes ; and over-
 head [she
 Fantastic gables, crowding, stared : but
 Not less thro' all bore up, till, last, she
 saw
 The white-flowered elder-thicket from the
 field
 Glean thro' the Gothic archways in the
 wall.
 Then she rode back, clothed on with
 chastity :



EDWARD GRAY (TENNYSON)

Sweet Emma Moreland spake to me,
Bitterly weeping I turned away :
" Sweet Emma Moreland, love no more
Can touch the heart of Edward Gray."—P. 501.

And one low churl, compact of thankless
earth,
The fatal byword of all years to come,
Boring a little auger-hole in fear,
Peeped—but his eyes, before they had
their will,
Were shrivelled into darkness in his head,
And dropt before him. So the Powers,
who wait
On noble deeds, cancelled a sense mis-
used ; [at once,
And she, that knew not, pass'd : and all
With twelve great shocks of sound, the
shameless noon
Was clashed and hammered from a
hundred towers,
One after one ; but even then she gained
Her bower ; whence reissuing, robed and
crowned,
To meet her lord, she took the tax away,
And built herself an everlasting name.

EDWARD GRAY.

SWEET Emma Moreland, of yonder
town,
Met me walking on yonder way,
“And have you lost your heart?” she
said ;
“And are you married yet, Edward
Gray ?”

Sweet Emma Moreland spake to me :
Bitterly weeping I turned away :
“Sweet Emma Moreland, love no more
Can touch the heart of Edward Gray.

“Ellen Adair she loved me well,
Against her father's and mother's will :
To-day I sat for an hour and wept
By Ellen's grave, on the windy hill.

“Shy she was, and I thought her cold ;
Thought her proud, and fled over the
sea ;
Filled I was with folly and spite,
When Ellen Adair was dying for me.

“Cruel, cruel, the words I said !
Cruelly came they back to-day :
“You're too slight and fickle,” I said,
“To trouble the heart of Edward Gray.”

“There I put my face in the grass—
Whispered, ‘Listen to my despair :
I repent me of all I did :
Speak a little, Ellen Adair !’

“Then I took a pencil, and wrote
On the mossy stone, as I lay,
‘Here lies the body of Ellen Adair ;
And here the heart of Edward Gray !’

“Love may come, and love may go,
And fly, like a bird, from tree to tree ;
But I will love no more, no more,
Till Ellen Adair come back to me.

“Bitterly wept I over the stone :
Bitterly weeping I turned away :
There lies the body of Ellen Adair !
And there the heart of Edward Gray !”

AS THROUGH THE LAND AT EVE WE WENT.

As thro' the land at eve we went,
And plucked the ripened ears,
We fell out, my wife and I,
We fell out, I know not why,
And kissed again with tears.

And blessings on the falling out
That all the more endears,
When we fall out with those we love,
And kiss again with tears !

For when we came where lies the child
We lost in other years,
There above the little grave,
O there above the little grave,
We kissed again with tears.

VIVIEN'S SONG.

IN love, if love be love, if love be ours,
Faith and unfaith can ne'er be equal
powers :
Unfaith in aught is want of faith in all.

It is the little rift within the lute,
That by and by will make the music
mute,
And ever widening slowly silence all.

The little rift within the lover's lute,
Or little pitted speck in garnered fruit,
That rotting inward slowly moulders all."

It is not worth the keeping : let it go :
But shall it ? answer, darling, answer, no.
And trust me not at all, or all in all.

[SYDNEY DOERLL.]

TOMMY'S DEAD.

You may give over plough, boys,
You may take the gear to the stead ;
All the sweat o' your brow, boys,
Will never get beer and bread.
The seed's waste, I know, boys ;
There's not a blade will grow boys ;
'Tis cropped out, I trow, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

Send the colt to the fair, boys—
He's going blind, as I said,
My old eyes can't bear, boys,
To see him in the shed ;
The cow's dry and spare, boys,
She's neither here nor there, boys,
I doubt she's badly bred ;
Stop the mill to-morn, boys,
There'll be no more corn, boys,
Neither white nor red ;
There's no sign of grass, boys,
You may sell the goat and the ass, boys,
The land's not what it was, boys,
And the beasts must be fed :
You may turn Peg away, boys,
You may pay off old Ned,
We've had a dull day, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

Move my chair on the floor, boys,
Let me turn my head :
She's standing there in the door, boys,
Your sister Winifred !
Take her away from me, boys,
Your sister Winifred !
Move me round in my place, boys,
Let me turn my head,
Take her away from me, boys,
As she lay on her death-bed—
The bones of her thin face, boys,
As she lay on her death-bed !

I don't know how it be, boys,
When all's done and said,
But I see her looking at me, boys,
Wherever I turn my head ;
Out of the big oak-tree, boys,
Out of the garden-bed,
And the lily as pale as she, boys,
And the rose that used to be red.

There's something not right, boys,
But I think it's not in my head ;
I've kept my precious sight, boys—
The Lord be hallowed.
Outside and in
The ground is cold to my tread,
The hills are wizen and thin,
The sky is shrivelled and shred ;
The hedges down by the loan
I can count them bone by bone,
The leaves are open and spread.
But I see the teeth of the land,
And hands like a dead man's hand,
And the eyes of a dead man's head.
There's nothing but cinders and sand,
The rat and the mouse have fled,
And the summer's empty and cold ;
Over valley and wold,
Wherever I turn my head,
There's a milchw and a mould ;
The sun's going out overhead,
And I'm very old,
And Tommy's dead.

What am I staying for, boys ?
You're all born and bred—
'Tis fifty years and more, boys,
Since wife and I were wed ;
And she's gone before, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

She was always sweet, boys,
Upon his curly head,
She knew she'd never see't, boys,
And she stole off to bed ;
I've been sitting up alone, boys,
For he'd come home, he said,
But it's time I was gone, boys,
For Tommy's dead.

Put the shutters up, boys,
Bring out the beer and bread,
Make haste and sup, boys,
For my eyes are heavy as lead ;

There's something wrong !' the cup, boys,
There's something ill wi' the bread ;
I don't care to sup, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

I'm not right, I doubt, boys,
I've such a sleepy head ;
I shall never more be stout, boys,
You may carry me to bed.
What are you about, boys ?
The prayers are all said,
The fire's raked out, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

The stairs are too steep, boys,
You may carry me to the head,
The night's dark and deep, boys,
Your mother's long in bed ;
'Tis time to go to sleep, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

I'm not used to kiss, boys ;
You may shake my hand instead.
All things go amiss, boys,
You may lay me where she is, boys,
And I'll rest my old head ;
'Tis a poor world, this, boys,
And Tommy's dead.

~~~~~  
[ELIZA COOK.]

### THE OLD ARM CHAIR.

I LOVE it—I love it, and who shall dare  
To chide me for loving that old arm  
chair !  
I've treasured it long as a sainted prize—  
I've bedewed it with tears, and embalmed  
it with sighs ;  
'Tis bound by a thousand bands to my  
heart,  
Not a tie will break, not a link will start.  
Would you learn the spell ? a mother sat  
there ;  
And a sacred thing is that old arm chair.

In childhood's hour I lingered near  
The hallowed seat with listening ear ;  
And gentle words that mother would  
give,  
To fit me to die, and teach me to live.

She told me shame would never betide,  
With truth for my creed, and God for my  
guide ;  
She taught me to lisp my earliest prayer,  
As I knelt beside that old arm chair.

I sat and watched her many a day,  
When her eyes grew dim and her locks  
were grey,  
And I almost worshipped her when she  
smiled  
And turned from her Bible to bless her  
child.

Years rolled on, but the last one sped—  
My idol was shattered—my earth star  
fled :

I learnt how much the heart can bear,  
When I saw her die in that old arm chair

'Tis past ! 'tis past ! but I gaze on it now  
With quivering breath and throbbing  
brow :

'Twas there she nursed me—'twas there  
she died,  
And memory flows with lava tide—  
Say it is folly, and deem me weak,  
While the scalding tears run down my  
cheek.

But I love it—I love it, and cannot tear  
My soul from my mother's old arm chair.

~~~~~  
[THOMAS MILLER.]

EVENING SONG.

How many days with mute adieu
Have gone down yon untroubled sky ;
And still it looks as clear and blue
As when it first was hung on high.
The rolling sun, the frowning cloud
That drew the lightning in its rear,
The thunder tramping deep and loud,
Have left no foot-mark there.

The village-bells, with silver chime,
Come softened by the distant shore ;
Though I have heard them many a time,
They never rung so sweet before.
A silence rests upon the hill,
A listening awe pervades the air ;
The very flowers are shut and still,
And bowed as if in prayer.

And in this hushed and breathless close,
O'er earth and air and sky and sea,
A still low voice in silence goes,
Which speaks alone, great God, of Thee.
The whispering leaves, the far-off brook,
The linnet's warble fainter grown,
The hive-bound bee, the building rook,—
All these their Maker own.

Now Nature sinks in soft repose,
A living semblance of the grave ;
The dew steals noiseless on the rose,
The boughs have almost ceased to wave ;
The silent sky, the sleeping earth,
Tree, mountain, stream, the humble sod,
All tell from whom they had their birth,
And cry, " Behold a God ! "

[ADELAIDE ANNE PROCTER. DIED 1864.]

THE MESSAGE.

I HAD a message to send her,
To her whom my soul loves best ;
But I had my task to finish,
And she had gone to rest :
To rest in the far bright Heaven—
Oh ! so far away from here !
It was vain to speak to my darling,
For I knew she could not hear.

I had a message to send her,
So tender, and true, and sweet,
I longed for an angel to hear it,
And lay it down at her feet.
I placed it, one summer's evening
On a little white cloud's breast ;
But it faded in golden splendour,
And died in the crimson west.

I gave it the lark next morning,
And I watched it soar and soar ;
But its pinions grew faint and weary,
And it fluttered to earth once more.
I cried, in my passionate longing,
Has the earth no angel friend
Who will carry my love the message
My heart desires to send ?

Then I heard a strain of music,
So mighty, so pure, so dear,
That my very sorrow was silent.
And my heart stood still to hear.

It rose in harmonious rushing
Of mingled voices and strings,
And I tenderly laid my message
On music's outspread wings.

And I heard it float farther and farther,
In sound more perfect than speech,
Farther than sight can follow,
Farther than soul can reach.
And I know that at last my message
Has passed through the golden gate ;
So my heart is no longer restless,
And I am content to wait.

[JULIAN FANE.]

AD MATREM.

IF those dear eyes that watch me now,
With looks that teach my heart content,
That smile which o'er that placid brow
Spreads with delight in pure consent ;
And that clear voice whose rise and fall
Alternate, in a silver chime ;
If these fair tokens false were all
That told the tale of fleeting Time,
I scarce should mark his swift career :
So little change hath o'er thee passed,
So much thy present doth appear,
Like all my memory holds most dear,
When she recalls thy perfect past.
Unchanged thou seem'st in mind and
frame,

Thy bright smile brightens still the same,
In thy fair face is nothing strange.
And when from out thy pure lips flow
Thy earnest words with grace, I know
Thy wisdom hath not suffered change.
And so thy presence, bland and glad,
Wherein no trace of change appears,
Proclaims not that this day will add
A fresh sheaf to thy garnered years ;
But Time himself proclaims his power,
And will not pass unheeded by ;
At every turn his ruins lie ;—
I track his steps at every door.
Or, musing with myself, I find
His signet borne by every thought,
From many a moral blemish wrought
By more of commerce with mankind.

Who am not armed, as thou, in youth,
 To bear unhurt the brunt of life;
 To battle with the foes of truth,
 And issue scarless from the strife.
 Not pure as thou to pass unscarred,
 Where knaves and fools infest the ways.
 By their rank censure unimpaired,
 And spotless from their ranker praise.
 And thus the slow year circling round,
 Mars with no change thy soul serene;
 While I, though changed, alas! am found
 Far other than I should have been;
 And only not at heart unsound,
 Because thy love still keeps it green.
 Oh! therefore from that worst decay,
 To save me with love's holiest dew,
 Heaven guard thee, dear, and oft renew
 Return of this thy natal day;
 And teach me with each rolling year,
 That leaves us on a heartless earth,
 To love thee, so that love may bear
 Fruits worthier of thy perfect worth.
 And so whatever ills betide,
 Whatever storms about me lower,
 Though broken by the bolts of pride,
 And scorched by envy's lightning power,
 I shall not perish in the blast,
 But prosper while thou still art nigh;
 By thy pure love preserved, and by
 My guardian spirit saved at last.

[D. F. M'CARTHY.]

THE WINDOW.

At my window, late and early,
 In the sunshine and the rain,
 When the jocund beams of morning
 Come to wake me from my napping
 With their golden fingers tapping
 At my window-pane:
 From my troubled slumbers flitting—
 From my dreamings fond and vain,
 From the fever intermitting,
 Up I start, and take my sitting
 At my window-pane.

Through the morning, through the noon-
 tide,
 Fettered by a diamond chain,
 Through the early hours of evening,

When the stars begin to tremble,
 As their shining ranks assemble
 O'er the azure plain:
 When the thousand lamps are blazing,
 Through the street and lane—
 Mimic stars of man's upraising—
 Still I linger, fondly gazing
 From my window-pane!

For, amid the crowds slow passing,
 Surging like the main,
 Like a sunbeam among shadows,
 Through the storm-swept cloudy masses,
 Sometimes one bright being passes
 'Neath my window-pane:
 Thus a moment's joy I borrow
 From a day of pain.
 See, she comes! but, bitter sorrow!
 Not until the slow to-morrow
 Will she come again.

[CHARLES KEPT.]

LOVE'S CALENDER.

TALK of love in vernal hours,
 When the landscape blushes
 With the dawning glow of flowers,
 While the early thrushes
 Warble in the apple-tree;
 When the primrose springing
 From the green bank, lulls the bee,
 On its blossom swinging.

Talk of love in summer-tide
 When through bosky shallows
 Trills the streamlet—all its side
 Pranked with freckled mallows;—
 When in mossy lair of wrens
 Tiny eggs are warming;
 When above the reedy fens
 Dragon-gnats are swarming.

Talk of love in autumn days,
 When the fruit, all mellow,
 Drops amid the ripening rays,
 While the leaflets yellow
 Circle in the sluggish breeze
 With their portents bitter;
 When between the fading trees
 Broader sunbeams glitter.

Talk of love in winter time,
When the hailstorm hurtles.
While the robin sparks of rime
Shakes from hardy myrtles.
Never speak of love with scorn,
Such were direst treason ;
Love was made for eve and morn,
And for every season.

THE BALLAD.

SING to me some homely ballad,
Plaintive with the tones of love ;
Harp and voice together blending,
Like the doling of the dove.

Let each cadence melt in languor
Softly on my ravished ears,
Till my half-closed eyes are brimming
With a rapture of sweet tears.

Summon back fond recollections,
Such as gentle sounds prolong ;
Flies of memory embalming
In the amber of a song.

[SAMUEL LOVER.]

THE FOUR-LEAVED SHAMROCK.

I'LL seek a four-leaved shamrock
In all the fairy dells,
And if I find the charmed leaf,
Oh, how I'll weave my spells !
I need not waste my magic might
On diamond, pearl, or gold,
For treasure tires the weary sense—
Such triumph is but cold ;
But I will play the enchanter's part
In casting bliss around ;
Oh ! not a tear, nor aching heart,
Should in the world be found.

To worth I would give honour,
I'd dry the mourner's tears,
And to the pallid lip recall
The smile of happier years ;
And hearts that had been long estranged,
And friends that had grown cold,
Should meet again like parted streams,
And mingle as of old.

Oh ! thus I'd play the enchanter's
part
In casting bliss around ;
Oh ! not a tear, nor aching heart,
Should in the world be found.

The heart that had been mourning
O'er vanished dreams of love,
Should see them all returning,
Like Noah's faithful dove.
And Hope should launch her blessed bark
On Sorrow's darkening sea,
And Misery's children have an ark,
And saved from sinking be.
Oh ! thus I'd play the enchanter's
part

In casting bliss around ;
Oh ! not a tear, nor aching heart,
Should in the world be found.

THE ANGELS' WHISPER.

A BABY was sleeping, its mother was
weeping,
For her husband was far on the wild
raging sea ;
And the tempest was swelling, round the
fisherman's dwelling,
And she cried, "Dermot darling, oh !
come back to me."

Her beads while she numbered, the baby
still slumbered,
And smiled in her face, while she
bended her knee.
"Oh ! blessed be that warning, my child,
thy sleep adorning,
For I know that the angels are whis-
pering with thee.

"And while they are keeping bright
watch o'er thy sleeping,
Oh ! pray to them softly, my baby, with
me ;
And say thou wouldst rather they'd
watched o'er thy father,
For I know that the angels are whis-
pering with thee."

The dawn of the morning saw Dermot
returning,
And the wife wept with joy her babe's
father to see,
And closely caressing her child, with a
blessing,
Said, "I knew that the angels were
whispering with thee."

~~~~~  
[LORD LYTTON.]

### ABSENT, YET PRESENT.

As the flight of a river  
That flows to the sea,  
My soul rushes ever  
In tumult to thee.

A twofold existence  
I am where thou art ;  
My heart in the distance  
Beats close to thy heart.

Look up, I am near thee,  
I gaze on thy face ;  
I see thee, I hear thee,  
I feel thine embrace.

As a magnet's control on  
The steel it draws to it,  
Is the charm of thy soul on  
The thoughts that pursue it.

And absence but brightens  
The eyes that I miss,  
And custom but heightens  
The spell of thy kiss.

It is not from duty,  
Though that may be owed,—  
It is not from beauty,  
Though that be bestowed ;

But all that I care for,  
And all that I know,  
Is that, without wherefore,  
I worship thee so.

Through granite as breaketh  
A tree to the ray,  
As a dreamer forsaketh  
The grief of the day,

My soul in its fever  
Escapes unto thee ;  
O dream to the griever,  
O light to the tree !

A twofold existence  
I am where thou art ;  
Hark, hear in the distance  
The beat of my heart !

### ~~~~~ LOVE AND FAME.

WRITTEN IN EARLY YOUTH.

I.

It was the May when I was born,  
Soft moonlight through the casement  
streamed,  
And still, as it were yesternorn,  
I dream the dream I dreamed.  
I saw two forms from fairy land,  
Along the moonbeam gently glide,  
Until they halted, hand in hand,  
My infant couch beside.

II.

With smiles, the cradle bending o'er,  
I heard their whispered voices breathe—  
The one a crown of diamond wore,  
The one a myrtle wreath ;  
"Twin brothers from the better clime,  
A poet's spell hath lured to thee ;  
Say which shall, in the coming time,  
Thy chosen fairy be ?"

III.

I stretched my hand, as if my grasp  
Could snatch the toy from either brow  
And found a leaf within my clasp,  
One leaf—as fragrant now !  
If both in life may not be won,  
Be mine, at least, the gentler brother—  
For he whose life deserves the one,  
In death may gain the other.

### ~~~~~ THE DESIRE OF FAME.

WRITTEN AT THE AGE OF THIRTY.

I do confess that I have wished to give  
My land the gift of no ignoble name.

And in that holier air have sought to  
live,  
Sunned with the hope of Fame.

Do I lament that I have seen the bays  
Denied my own, not worthier brows  
above,—

Foes quick to scoff, and friends afraid to  
praise,—  
More active hate than love ?

Do I lament that roseate youth has flown  
In the hard labour grudged its niggard  
meed,

And cull from far and juster lands alone  
Few flowers from many a seed ?

No ! for whoever with an earnest soul  
Strives for some end from this low  
world afar,

Still upward travels, though he miss the  
goal,  
And strays—but towards a star.

Better than fame is still the wish for fame,  
The constant training for a glorious  
strife :

The athlete nurtured for the Olympian  
Game  
Gains strength at least for life.

The wish for Fame is faith in holy  
things

That soothe the life, and shall outlive  
the tomb—

A reverent listening for some angel wings  
That cower above the gloom.

To gladden earth with beauty, or men's  
lives

To serve with action, or their souls  
with truth,—

These are the ends for which the hope  
survives

The ignobler thirsts of youth.

No, I lament not, though these leaves  
may fall

From the sered branches on the desert  
plain,

Mocked by the idle winds that waft ; and  
all

Life's blooms, its last, in vain !

If vain for others, not in vain for me,—  
Who builds an altar let him worship  
there ;

What needs the crowd ? though lone the  
shrine may be,  
Not hallowed less the prayer.

Eno' if haply in the after days,  
When by the altar sleeps the funeral  
stone,

When gone the mists our human passions  
raise,  
And Truth is seen alone :

When causeless Hate can wound its prey  
no more,  
And fawns its late repentance o'er the  
dead,

If gentle footsteps from some kindlier  
shore  
Pause by the narrow bed.

Or if yon children, whose young sounds  
of glee  
Float to mine ear the evening gales  
along,

Recall some echo, in their years to be,  
Of not all-perished song !

Taking some spark to glad the hearth, or  
light

The student lamp, from now neglected  
fires,—

And one sad memory in the sons requite  
What—I forgive the sires.

#### THE INFANT-BURIAL.

To and fro the bells are swinging,  
Heavily heaving to and fro ;

Sadly go the mourners, bringing  
Dust to join the dust below.

Through the church-aisle, lighted dim,  
Chanted knells the ghostly hymn,

*Dies ira, dies illa,  
Solve saccum in favilla !*

Mother ! flowers that bloomed and pe-  
rished,

Strewed thy path the bridal day ;  
Now the bud thy grief has cherished,  
With the rest has passed away !

Leaf that fadeth—bud that bloometh,  
Mingled there, must wait the day  
When the seed the grave enfoldeth  
Bursts to glory from the clay.

*Dies iræ, dies illa,  
Solvat sæculum in favillâ!*

Happy are the old that die,  
With the sins of life repented;  
Happier he whose parting sigh  
Breaks a heart, from sin prevented!  
Let the earth thine infant cover  
From the cares the living know;  
Happier than the guilty lover—  
Memory is at rest below!  
Memory, like a fiend, shall follow,  
Night and day, the steps of Crime;  
Hark! the church-bell, dull and hollow,  
Shakes another sand from time!  
Through the church-aisle, lighted dim,  
Chanted kneels the ghostly hymn;  
Hear it, False One, where thou fliest,  
Shriek to hear it when thou diest—

*Dies iræ, dies illa,  
Solvat sæculum in favillâ!*

### LIGHT AND DARKNESS.

WHEN earth is fair, and winds are still,  
When sunset gilds the western hill,  
Oft by the porch, with jasmine sweet,  
Or by the brook, with noiseless feet,  
Two silent forms are seen;  
So silent they—the place so lone—  
They seem like souls when life is gone,  
That haunt where life has been:  
And his to watch, as in the past  
Her soul had watched his soul.  
Alas! her darkness waits the last,  
The grave the only goal!  
It is not what the leech can cure—  
An erring chord, a jarring madness:  
A calm so deep, it must endure—  
So deep, thou scarce canst call it sadness;  
A summer night, whose shadow falls  
On silent hearths in ruined halls.  
Yet, through the gloom, she seemed to feel  
His presence like a happier air,  
Close by his side she loved to steal,  
As if no ill could harm her there!

And when her looks his own would seek,  
Some memory seemed to wake the sigh,  
Strive for kind words she could not speak,  
And bless him in the tearful eye.  
O sweet the jasmine's buds of snow,  
In mornings soft with May,  
And silver-clear the waves that flow  
To shoreless deeps away;  
But heavenward from the faithful heart  
A sweeter incense stole;—  
The onward waves their source desert,  
But Soul returns to Soul!

### KING ARTHUR'S HOLIDAY.

NOW is the time when, after sparkling  
showers,  
Her starry wreaths the virgin jasmine  
weaves;  
Now murmurous bees return with sunny  
hours;  
And light wings rustle quick through  
glinting leaves;  
Music in every bough; on mead and  
lawn  
May lifts her fragrant altars to the dawn.

Now life, with every moment, seems to  
start  
In air, in wave, on earth;—above,  
below;  
And o'er her new-born children, Nature's  
heart  
Heaves with the gladness mothers only  
know;  
On poet times the month of poets  
shone—  
May decked the world, and Arthur filled  
the throne.

Hard by a stream, amidst a pleasant vale,  
King Arthur held his careless holi-  
day:—  
The stream was blithe with many a silken  
sail, [gay;  
The vale with many a proud pavilion  
While Cymri's dragon, from the Roman's  
hold,  
Spread with calm wing o'er Carduel's  
domes of gold.

Dark, to the right, thick forests mantled  
o'er

A gradual mountain sloping to the  
plain ;

Whose gloom but lent to light a charm  
the more,

As pleasure pleases most when neigh-  
bouring pain ;

And all our human joys most sweet and  
holy,

Sport in the shadows cast from Melan-  
choly.

Below that mount, along the glossy  
sward

Were gentle groups, discoursing gentle  
things ;

Or listening idly where the skilful  
bard

Woke the sweet tempest of melodious  
strings ;

Or whispering love—I ween, less idle  
they,

For love's the honey in the flowers of  
May.

Some plied in lusty race the glist'ning  
oar ;

Some, noiseless, snared the silver-  
scaled prey ;

Some wreathed the dance along the level  
shore ;

And each was happy in his chosen  
way.

Not by one shaft is Care, the hydra  
killed,

So Mirth, determined, had his quiver  
filled.

Bright 'mid his blooming Court, like  
royal Morn

Girt with the Hours that lead the  
jocund Spring,

When to its smile delight and flowers are  
born,

And clouds are rose-hued,—shone the  
Cymrian King.

Above that group, o'er-arched from tree  
to tree,

Thick garlands hung their odorous  
canopy ;

And in the midst of that delicious shade  
Up sprang a sparkling fountain, silver-  
voiced,

And the bee murmured and the breezes  
played :

In their gay youth, the youth of May  
rejoiced—

And they in hers—as though that leafy  
hall

Chimed the heart's laughter with the  
fountain's fall.

Propped on his easy arm, the King re-  
clined,

And glancing gaily round the ring,  
quoth he—

“ ‘Man,’ say our sages, ‘hath a fickle  
mind,

And pleasures pall, if long enjoyed  
they be.’

But I, methinks, like this soft summer-  
day,

Mid blooms and sweets could wear the  
hours away ;—

“ ‘Feel, in the eyes of Love, a cloudless  
sun,

Taste, in the breath of Love, eternal  
spring ;

Could age but keep the joys that youth  
has won,

The human heart would fold its idle  
wing !

If change there be in Fate and Nature's  
plan,

Wherefore blame us ?—it is in Time, not  
Man.”

#### THE ANGEL AND THE CHILD.

UPON a barren steep,

Above a stormy deep,

I saw an Angel watching the wild sea ;

Earth was that barren steep,

Time was that stormy deep,

And the opposing shore—Eternity !

“ ‘Why dost thou watch the wave ?

Thy feet the waters lave,

The tide engulfs thee if thou dost delay.”

“ ‘Unscathed I watch the wave,

Time not the Angel's grave,

I wait until the ocean ebbs away.”

Hushed on the Angel's breast  
 I saw an Infant rest,  
 Smiling upon the gloomy hell below.  
 "What is the Infant pressed,  
 O Angel, to thy breast?"  
 "The child God gave me, in The Long  
 Ago.

"Mine all upon the earth,  
 The Angel's angel-birth,  
 Smiling each terror from the howling  
 wild."

Never may I forget  
 The dream that haunts me yet,  
 OF PATIENCE NURSING HOPE—THE  
 ANGEL AND THE CHILD.

#### TO THE KING ON THE AWAKENING OF THE PEOPLE.

*Duchess de la Vallière.*

GREAT though thou art, awake thee from  
 the dream  
 That earth was made for kings—mankind  
 for slaughter—  
 Woman for lust—the People for the  
 Palace!  
 Dark warnings have gone forth; along  
 the air  
 Lingers the crash of the first Charles's  
 throne.  
 Behold the young, the fair, the haughty  
 king,  
 The ruling courtiers, and the flattering  
 priests!  
 Lo! where the palace rose, behold the  
 scaffold—  
 The crowd—the axe—the headsmen—  
 and the victim!  
 Lord of the Silver Lilies, canst thou tell  
 If the same fate await not thy descen-  
 dant!  
 If some meek son of thine imperial line  
 May make no brother to yon headless  
 spectre!  
 And when the sage who saddens o'er the  
 end  
 Tracks back the causes, tremble, lest he  
 finds  
 The seeds, thy wars, thy pomp, and thy  
 profusion,

Sowed in a heartless court and breadless  
 people,  
 Grew to the tree from which men shaped  
 the scaffold,—  
 And the long glare of thy funereal glories  
 Light unborn monarchs to a ghastly  
 grave?  
 Beware, proud King! the Present cries  
 aloud,  
 A prophet to the Future! Wake!—  
 beware!

#### A LOVER'S DREAM OF HOME.

*Lady of Lyons.*

A PALACE lifting to eternal summer  
 Its marble walls, from out a glossy bower  
 Of coolest foliage musical with birds,  
 Whose songs should syllable thy name!  
 At noon  
 We'd sit beneath the arching vines, and  
 wonder  
 Why Earth could be unhappy, while the  
 Heaven  
 Still left us youth and love; we'd have  
 no friends  
 That were not lovers; no ambition, save  
 To excel them all in love; we'd read no  
 books  
 That were not tales of love—that we  
 might smile  
 To think how poorly eloquence of  
 words  
 Translates the poetry of hearts like  
 ours!  
 And when night came, amidst the breath-  
 less heavens  
 We'd guess what star should be our home  
 when love  
 Becomes immortal; while the perfumed  
 light  
 Stole through the mists of alabaster  
 lamps,  
 And every air was heavy with the sighs  
 Of orange groves and music from sweet  
 lutes,  
 And murmurs of low fountains that gush  
 forth  
 I' the midst of roses! Dost thou like the  
 picture?

## INVOCATION TO LOVE.

*King Arthur*

HAIL thou, the ever young, albeit of  
 night  
 And of primeval chaos, eldest born ;  
 Thou, at whose birth broke forth the  
 Founts of Light,  
 And o'er Creation flushed the earliest  
 morn !  
 Life, in thy life, suffused the conscience  
 whole ;  
 And formless matter took the harmonious  
 soul.

Hail, Love ! the Death-defyer ! age to  
 age  
 Linking, with flowers, in the still heart  
 of man !  
 Dream to the Bard, and marvel to the  
 Sage,  
 Glory and mystery since the world  
 began.  
 Shadowing the cradle, bright'ning at the  
 tomb,  
 Soft as our joys, and solemn as our  
 doom !

Ghost-like amidst the unfamiliar Past,  
 Dim shadows flit along the streams of  
 Time ;  
 Vainly our learning trifles with the vast  
 Unknown of ages ! Like the wizard's  
 rhyme  
 We call the dead, and from the Tar-  
 tarus  
 'Tis but the dead that rise to answer  
 us !

Voiceless and wan, we question them in  
 vain ;  
 They leave unsolved earth's mighty  
 yesterday.  
 But wave thy wand—they bloom, they  
 breathe again !  
 The link is found !—as we love, so  
 loved they !  
 Warm to our clasp our human brothers  
 start,  
 Man smiles on man, and heart speaks out  
 to heart.

Arch power, of every power most dread,  
 most sweet,  
 Ope at thy touch the far celestial  
 gates ;  
 Yet Terror flies with Joy before thy feet,  
 And, with the Graces, glide unseen the  
 Fates ;  
 Eos and Hesperus,—one, with twofold  
 light,  
 Bringer of day, and herald of the night.

## THE HOLLOW OAK.

HOLLOW is the oak beside the sunny  
 waters drooping ;  
 Thither came, when I was young, happy  
 children trooping ;  
 Dream I now, or hear I now—far, their  
 mellow whooping ?

Gay below the cowslip bank, see the  
 billow dances,  
 There I lay, beguiling time—when I  
 lived romances ;  
 Dropping pebbles in the wave, fancies  
 into fancies ;—

Farther, where the river glides by the  
 wooded cover,  
 Where the merlin singeth low, with the  
 hawk above her,  
 Came a foot and shone a smile—woe is  
 me, the lover !

Leaflets on the hollow oak still as greenly  
 quiver, [river ;  
 Musical amid the reeds murmurs on the  
 But the footstep and the smile !—~~woe~~ is  
 me for ever !

## JEALOUSY.

I HAVE thy love—I know no fear  
 Of that divine possession ;  
 Yet draw more close, and thou shalt hear  
 A jealous heart's confession.

I nurse no pang, lest fairer youth  
 Of loftier hopes should win thee ;  
 There blows no wind to chill the truth,  
 Whose amaranth blooms within thee.

Unworthier thee if I could grow  
 (The love that lured thee perished),  
 Thy woman heart could ne'er forego  
 The earliest dream it cherished.

I do not think that doubt and love  
 Are one—whate'er they tell us ;  
 Yet—nay—lift not thy looks above,  
 A star can make me jealous.

If thou art mine, all mine at last,  
 I covet so the treasure,  
 No glance that thou canst elsewhere cast,  
 But robs me of a pleasure.

I am so much a miser grown,  
 That I could wish to hide thee,  
 Where never breath but mine alone  
 Could drink delight beside thee.

Then say not, with that soothing air,  
 I have no rival nigh thee ;  
 The sunbeam lingering in thy hair—  
 The breeze that trembles by thee—

The very herb beneath thy feet—  
 The rose whose odours woo thee—  
 In all things, rivals he must meet,  
 Who would be all things to thee !

If sunlight from the dial be  
 But for one moment banished,  
 Turn to the silenced plate and see  
 The hours themselves are vanished.

In aught that from me lures thine eyes,  
 My jealousy has trial ;  
 The lightest cloud across the skies  
 Has darkness for the dial.

~~~~~  
 [LORD HOUGHTON (RICHARD MONCKTON
 MILNES).]

WHEN LONG UPON THE SCALES OF FATE.

WHEN long upon the scales of fate
 The issue of my passion hung,
 And on your eyes I laid in wait,
 And on your brow, and on your
 tongue,

High-frowning Nature pleased me most:
 Strange pleasure was it to discern
 Sharp rock and mountains peaked with
 frost,
 Through gorges thick with fir and fern.

The flowerless walk, the vapoury shroud—
 Could comfort me ; though, best of all,
 I loved the daughter of the clouds,
 The wild capricious waterfall.

But now that you and I repose
 On one affection's certain store,
 Serener charms take place of those,
 Plenty and Peace and little more ;

The hill that lends its mother-breast
 To patient flocks and gentle kine ;
 The vale that spreads its royal vest
 Of golden corn and purple vine ;

The streams that bubble out their mirth
 In humble nooks, or calmly flow,
 The crystal life-blood of our earth,
 Are now the dearest sights I know.

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 [ALEXANDER SMITH. DIED 1867.]

#### DESIRES AND ANTICIPATIONS OF THE YOUNG HEART.

*The Life Drama.*

ON balcony, all summer roofed with  
 vines,  
 A lady half-reclined amid the light,  
 Golden and green, soft-showering through  
 the leaves.

Silent she sat one-half the silent noon ;  
 At last she sank luxurious in her couch,  
 Purple and golden-fringed, like the sun's,  
 And stretched her white arms on the  
 warmed air,

As if to take some object wherewithal  
 To ease the empty aching of her heart.  
 "Oh, what a weariness of life is mine !"  
 The lady said, "soothing myself to sleep  
 With my own lute, floating about the lake  
 To feed my swans, with nought to stir my  
 blood,  
 Unless I scold my women thrice a day.



Unwrought yet in the tapestry of my life,  
 And princely suitors kneeling evermore;  
 I, in my beauty, standing in the midst,  
 Touching them, careless, with most  
 stately eyes.  
 Oh, I could love, methinks, with all my  
 soul!  
 But I see nought to love; nought save  
 some score  
 Of lisping, curled gallants, with words i'  
 their mouths [heart!  
 Soft as their mother's milk. Oh, empty  
 Oh, palace, rich and purple-chambered!  
 When will thy lord come home?"

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 BARBARA.

ON the Sabbath-day,
 Through the churchyard old and grey,
 Over the crisp and yellow leaves, I held
 my rustling way;
 And amid the words of mercy, falling on
 my soul like balms;
 'Mong the gorgeous storms of music—in
 the mellow organ-calms,
 'Mong the upward-streaming prayers, and
 the rich and solemn psalms,
 I stood heedless, Barbara!

My heart was elsewhere
 While the organ filled the air,
 And the priest, with outspread hands,
 blessed the people with a prayer;
 But, when rising to go homeward, with a
 mild and saint-like shine
 Gleamed a face of airy beauty with its
 heavenly eyes on mine—
 Gleamed and vanished in a moment. Oh,
 the face was like to thine,
 Ere you perished, Barbara!

Oh, that pallid face!
 Those sweet, earnest eyes of grace!
 When last I saw them, dearest, it was in
 another place;
 You came running forth to meet me with
 my love-gift on your wrist,
 And a cursed river killed thee, aided by
 a murderous mist.
 Oh, a purple mark of agony was on the
 mouth I kissed,
 When last I saw thee, Barbara!

These dreary years eleven
 Have you pined within your heaven,
 And is this the only glimpse of earth that
 in that time was given?
 And have you passed unheeded all the
 fortunes of your race—
 Your father's grave, your sister's child,
 your mother's quiet face—
 To gaze on one who worshipped not
 within a kneeling place?
 Are you happy, Barbara?

'Mong angels, do you think
 Of the precicus golden link
 I bound around your happy arm while
 sitting on yon brink?
 Or when that night of wit and wine, of
 laughter and guitars,
 Was emptied of its music, and we
 watched, through lattice-bars,
 The silent midnight heaven moving o'er
 us with its stars,
 Till the morn broke, Barbara?

In the years I've changed;
 Wild and far my heart has ranged,
 And many sins and errors deep have been
 on me avenged;
 But to you I have been faithful, whatso-
 ever good I've lacked:
 I loved you, and above my life still hangs
 that love intact—
 Like a mild consoling rainbow, or a
 savage cataract.
 Love has saved me, Barbara!

O Love! I am unblest;
 With monstrous doubts opprest
 Of much that's dark and nether, much
 that's holiest and best.
 Could I but win you for an hour from off
 that starry shore,
 The hunger of my soul were stilled; for
 Death has told you more
 Than the melancholy world doth know,
 —things deeper than all lore,
 Will you teach me, Barbara?

In vain, in vain, in vain!
 You will never come again,
 There droops upon the dreary hills
 mournful fringe of rain;

The gloaming closes slowly round, un-
 blest winds are in the tree,
 Round selfish shores for ever moans the
 hurt and wounded sea :
 There is no rest upon the earth, peace is
 with Death and thee,—
 I am weary, Barbara !

[GEORGE W. THORNBURY.]

THE RIDING TO THE TOURNAMENT.

OVER meadows purple-flowered,
 Through the dark lanes oak-embowered,
 Over commons dry and brown,
 Through the silent red-roofed town,
 Past the reapers and the sheaves,
 Over white roads strewn with leaves,
 By the gipsy's ragged tent,
 Rode we to the Tournament.

Over clover wet with dew,
 Whence the sky-lark, startled, flew,
 Through brown fallows, where the hare
 Leapt up from its subtle lair,
 Past the mill-stream and the reeds
 Where the stately heron feeds,
 By the warren's sunny wall,
 Where the dry leaves shake and fall,
 By the hall's ancestral trees,
 Bent and writhing in the breeze,
 Rode we all with one intent,
 Gaily to the Tournament.

Golden sparkles, flashing gem,
 Lit the robes of each of them,
 Cloak of velvet, robe of silk,
 Mantle snowy-white as milk,
 Rings upon our bridle hand,
 Jewels on our belt and band,
 Bells upon our golden reins,
 Tinkling spurs and shining chains—
 In such merry mob we went
 Riding to the Tournament.

Laughing voices, scraps of song,
 Lusty music loud and strong,
 Rustling of the banners blowing,
 Whispers as of rivers flowing,
 Whistle of the hawks we bore
 As they rise and as they soar,

Now and then a clash of drums
 As the rabble louder hums,
 Now and then a burst of horns
 Sounding over brooks and bourns.
 As in merry guise we went
 Riding to the Tournament.

There were abbots fat and sleek,
 Nuns in couples, pale and meek,
 Jugglers tossing cups and knives,
 Yeomen with their buxom wives,
 Pages playing with the curls
 Of the rosy village girls,
 Grizzly knights with faces scarred,
 Staring through their visors barred,
 Huntsmen cheering with a shout
 At the wild stag breaking out,
 Harper, stately as a king,
 Touching now and then a string,
 As our revel laughing went
 To the solemn Tournament.

Charger with the massy chest,
 Foam-spots flecking mane and breast,
 Pacing stately, pawing ground,
 Fretting for the trumpet's sound,
 White and sorrel, roan and bay,
 Dappled, spotted, black, and grey
 Palfreys snowy as the dawn,
 Ponies sallow as the fawn,
 All together neighing went
 Trampling to the Tournament.

Long hair scattered in the wind,
 Curls that flew a yard behind,
 Flags that struggled like a bird
 Chained and restive—not a word
 But half buried in a laugh ;
 And the lance's gilded staff
 Shaking when the bearer shook
 At the jester's merry look,
 As he grins upon his mule,
 Like an urchin leaving school,
 Shaking bauble, tossing bells,
 At the merry jest he tells,—
 So in happy mood we went,
 Laughing to the Tournament.

What a bustle at the inn,
 What a stir, without—within ;
 Filling flagons, brimming bowls
 For a hundred thirsty souls :
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Froth in snow-flakes flowing down,
 From the pitcher big and brown,
 While the tankards brim and bubble
 With the balm for human trouble ;
 How the maiden coyly sips,
 How the yeoman wipes his lips,
 How the old knight drains the cup
 Slowly and with calmness up,
 And the abbot, with a prayer,
 Fills the silver goblet rare,
 Praying to the saints for strength
 As he holds it at arm's length ;
 How the jester spins the bowl
 On his thumb, then quaffs the whole ;
 How the pompous steward bends
 And bows to half-a-dozen friends,
 As in a thirsty mood we went
 Duly to the Tournament.

Then again the country over
 Through the stubble and the clover,
 By the crystal-dropping springs,
 Where the road-dust clogs and clings
 To the pearl-leaf of the rose,
 Where the tawdry nightshade blows,
 And the bramble twines its chains
 Through the sunny village lanes,
 Where the thistle sheds its seed,
 And the goldfinch loves to feed,
 By the milestone green with moss,
 By the broken wayside cross,
 In a merry band we went
 Shouting to the Tournament.

Pilgrims with their hood and cowl,
 Pursy burghers cheek-by-jowl,
 Archers with their peacock's wing
 Fitting to the waxen string,
 Pedlars with their pack and bags,
 Beggars with their coloured rags,
 Silent monks, whose stony eyes
 Rest in trance upon the skies,
 Children sleeping at the breast,
 Merchants from the distant West,
 All in gay confusion went
 To the royal Tournament.

Players with the painted face
 And a drunken man's grimace,
 Grooms who praise their raw-boned steeds,
 Old wives telling maple beads,—
 Blackbirds from the hedges broke,
Black crows from the beeches croak,

Glossy swallows in dismay
 From the mill-stream fled away,
 The angry swan, with ruffled breast,
 Frowned upon her osier nest,
 The wren hopped restless on the brake,
 The otter made the sedges shake,
 The butterfly before our rout
 Flew like a blossom blown about,
 The coloured leaves, a globe of life,
 Spun round and scattered as in strife,
 Sweeping down the narrow lane
 Like the slant shower of the rain,
 The lark in terror, from the sod,
 Flew up and straight appealed to
 God,
 As a noisy band we went
 Trotting to the Tournament.

But when we saw the holy town,
 With its river and its down,
 Then the drums began to beat
 And the flutes piped mellow sweet ;
 Then the deep and full bassoon
 Murmured like a wood in June,
 And the fifes, so sharp and bleak,
 All at once began to speak.
 Hear the trumpets clear and loud,
 Full-tongued, eloquent, and proud,
 And the dulcimer that ranges
 Through such wild and plaintive changes,
 Merry sounds the jester's shawn,
 To our gladness giving form ;
 And the shepherd's chalumeau,
 Rich and soft, and sad and low ;
 Hark ! the bagpipes squeak and gican, —
 Every herdsman has his own ;
 So in measured step we went
 Pacing to the Tournament.

All at once the chimes break out,
 Then we hear the townsmen shout,
 And the morris-dancers' bells
 Tinkling in the grassy dells ;
 The bell thunder from the tower
 Adds its sound of doom and power,
 As the cannon's loud salute
 For a moment made us mute,
 Then again the laugh and joke
 On the startled silence broke ;—
 Thus in merry mood we went
 Laughing to the Tournament.

[M. F. TUPPER.]

LOVE.

THERE is a fragrant blossom, that maketh
glad the garden of the heart ;
Its root lieth deep ; it is delicate, yet
lasting, as the lilac crocus of autumn ;
Loveliness and thought are the dews that
water it morning and even ;
Memory and absence cherish it, as the
balmy breathings of the south.
Its sun is the brightness of affection, and
it bloometh in the border of Hope.
Its companions are gentle flowers, and the
briar withereth by its side.
I saw it budding in beauty ; I felt the
magic of its smile ;
The violet rejoiced beneath it, the rose
stooped down and kissed it ;
And I thought some cherub had planted
there a truant flower of Eden,
As a bird bringeth foreign seeds, that they
may flourish in a kindly soil.
I saw, and asked not its name. I knew
no language was so wealthy,
Though every heart of every clime findeth
its echo within.

* * * * *

Love,—what a volume in a word, an
ocean in a tear,
A seventh heaven in a glance, a whirlwind
in a sigh,
The lightning in a touch, a millennium in
a moment,
What concentrated joy, or woe, in blest
or blighted Love !
For it is that native poetry springing up
indigenous to Mind,
The heart's own country music thrilling
all its chords,
The story without an end that angels
throng to hear,
The words, the king of words, carved on
Jehovah's heart !
Go, call thou snake-eyed malice mercy,
call envy honest praise,
Count selfish craft for wisdom, and coward
treachery for prudence ;
Do homage for blaspheming unbelief as
to bold and free philosophy,
And estimate the recklessness of licence as
the right attribute of liberty,—

But with the world, thou friend and
scholar, stain not this pure name,
Nor suffer the majesty of Love to belikened
to the meanness of desire ;
For Love is no more such, than seraphs'
hymns are discord ;
And such is no more Love, than Etna's
breath is summer.

Love is a sweet idolatry, enslaving all the
soul,
A mighty spiritual force, warring with the
dulness of matter,
An angel-mind breathed into a mortal,
though fallen, yet how beautiful !
All the devotion of the heart in all its
depth and grandeur.
Behold that pale geranium, pent within
the cottage-window,
How yearningly it stretcheth to the light
its sickly long-stalked leaves ;
How it straineth upward to the sun,
coveting his sweet influence ;
How real a living sacrifice to the god of
all its worship !
Such is the soul that loveth, and so the
rose-tree of affection
Bendeth its every leaf to look on those
dear eyes : [light ;
Its every gushing petal basketeth in their
And all its gladness, all its life, is hanging
on their love.

If the love of the heart is blighted, it
buddeth not again :
If that pleasant song is forgotten, it is to
be learnt no more ;
Yet often will thought look back, and
weep over early affection ;
And the dim notes of that pleasant song
will be heard as a reproachful spirit,
Moaning in Æolian strains over the desert
of the heart,
Where the hot siroccos of the world have
withered its own oasis.

[THOMAS WADDE.]

SYMPATHY.

THERE'S music on the earth : the moon
and her attendants
Partake the lofty solitude of heaven.

Why should they seem more lovely to the sight

For that low melody? By the sweet strain,

Which falls upon the soul and melts the soul,

'Tis tempered to their beauty: 'tis the mind

Which lends the happier influence it receives

From things external, and takes back its Even as a boon. A sympathy is on me: I deem those fair lights mortal; there's a death

Looks through their glory: feeling they may perish,

I love them more; and my mortality Shakes off its grosser weight, self-reconciled

By such high partnership.

A MOTHER TO HER NEW-BORN CHILD.

SWEET cry! as sacred as the blessed hymn

Sung at Christ's birth by joyful seraphim! Exhausted nigh to death by that dread pain,

That voice salutes me to dear life again.

Ah, God! my child! my first, my living child!

I have been dreaming of a thing like thee Ere since, a babe, upon the mountains wild

I nursed my mimic babe upon my knee.

In girlhood I had visions of thee; love

Came to my riper youth, and still I clove Unto thine image, born within my brain

So like! as even there thy germ had lain! My blood! my voice! my thought! my dream achieved!

Oh, till this double life, I have not lived!

[ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE]

CHORUS FROM ATALANTA IN CALYDON.

BEFORE the beginning of years

There came to the making of man

Time, with a gift of tears;

Grief, with a glass that ran;

Pleasure, with pain for leaven;

Summer, with flowers that fell;

Remembrance fallen from heaven,

And madness risen from hell;

Strength without hands to smite;

Love that endures for a breath;

Night, the shadow of light;

And life, the shadow of death.

And the high gods took in hand

Fire, and the falling of tears;

And a measure of sliding sand

From under the feet of the years;

And froth and drift of the sea;

And dust of the labouring earth;

And bodies of things to be

In the houses of death and of birth;

And wrought with weeping and laughter,

And fashioned with loathing and love,

With life before and after,

And death beneath and above,

For a day, and a night, and a morrow,

That his strength might endure for a span

With travail and heavy sorrow,

The holy spirit of man.

From the winds of the north and the south

They gathered as unto strife;

They breathed upon his mouth,

They filled his body with life;

Eye-sight and speech they wrought

For the veils of the soul therein,

A time for labour and thought,

A time to serve and to sin;

They gave him light in his ways,

And love, and a space for delight,

And beauty, and length of days,

And night, and sleep in the night.

His speech is a burning fire;

With his lips he travaileth;

In his heart is a blind desire;

In his eyes foreknowledge of death;

He weaves, and is clothed with de-
rision;

Sows, and he shall not reap;

His life is a watch or a vision

Between a sleep and a sleep.

LOVE AND DEATH.

WE have seen thee, O Love, thou art
 fair ; thou art goodly, O Love ;
 Thy wings make light in the air as the
 wings of a dove.
 Thy feet are as winds that divide the
 stream of the sea ;
 Earth is thy covering to hide thee, the
 garment of thee.
 Thou art swift and subtle and blind as a
 flame of fire ;
 Before thee the laughter, behind thee the
 tears of desire ;
 And twain go forth beside thee, a man
 with a maid ;
 Her eyes are the eyes of a bride whom
 delight makes afraid ;
 As the breath in the buds that stir is her
 bridal breath :
 But Fate is the name of her ; and his
 name is Death.

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 [LADY DUFFERIN.]

## THE IRISH EMIGRANT.

I'M sitting on the stile, Mary,  
 Where we sat side by side,  
 On a bright May morning long ago,  
 When first you were my bride.  
 The corn was springing fresh and green,  
 And the lark sang loud and high,  
 And the red was on your lip, Mary,  
 And the love light in your eye.  
 The place is little changed, Mary,  
 The day's as bright as then ;  
 The lark's loud song is in my ear,  
 And the corn is green again.  
 But I miss the soft clasp of your hand,  
 And your warm breath on my cheek,  
 And I still keep listening for the words  
 You never more may speak.  
 'Tis but a step down yonder lane,  
 The village church stands near,—  
 The church where we were wed, Mary,  
 I see the spire from here.  
 But the grave-yard lies between, Mary,  
 And my step might break your rest,  
 Where I've laid you, darling, down to  
 sleep,  
 With your baby on your breast.

I'm very lonely now, Mary,  
 For the poor make no new friends ;  
 But, oh, they love the better  
 The few our Father sends.  
 And you were all I had, Mary,  
 My blessing and my pride ;  
 There's nothing left to care for now,  
 Since my poor Mary died.

I'm bidding you a long farewell,  
 My Mary kind and true,  
 But I'll not forget you, darling,  
 In the land I'm going to.  
 They say there's bread and work for all,  
 And the sun shines always there,  
 But I'll not forget old Ireland,  
 Were it fifty times less fair.

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 [WILLIAM HENRY WHITWORTH.]

TIME AND DEATH.

I SAW old Time, destroyer of mankind ;
 Calm, stern, and cold he sat and often
 shook
 And turned his glass, nor ever cared to
 look
 How many of life's sands were still be-
 hind.
 And there was Death, his page, aghast
 to find
 How, tremblingly, like aspen o'er a
 brook,
 His blunted dart fell harmless ; so he
 took
 His master's scythe, and idly smote the
 wind.
 Smite on, thou gloomy one, with power-
 less aim !
 For Sin, thy mother, at her dying breath,
 Withered that arm, and left thee but a
 name.
 Hope closed the grave, when He of
 Nazareth,
 Who led captivity his captive, came
 And vanquished the great conquerors,
 Time and Death.

[THOMAS DOUBLEDAY.]

LIFE.

COME, track with me this little vagrant
rill,
Wandering its wild course from the
mountain's breast;
Now with a brink fantastic, heather-
drest,
And playing with the stooping flowers at
will;
Now moving scarce, with noiseless step
and still;
Anon it seems to weary of its rest,
And hurries on, leaping with sparkling
rest
Adown the ledges of the broken hill.
So let us live. Is not the life well spent
Which loves the lot that kindly Nature
weaves
For all, inheriting or adorning Earth?
Which throws light pleasure over true
content, [leaves,
Blossoms with fruitage, flowers as well as
And sweetness wisdom with a taste of
mirth?

[GERALD MASSEY.]

WHEN I COME HOME.

AROUND me Life's hell of fierce ardours
burns,
When I come home, when I come
home;
Over me Heaven with its starry heart
yearns,
When I come home, when I come
home.
For a feast of Gods garnisht, the palace
of Night
At a thousand star-windows is throbbing
with light.
London makes mirth! but I know God
hears
The sobs in the dark, and the dropping
of tears;
For I feel that he-listens down Night's
great dome
When I come home, when I come home;
Home, home, when I come home,
Far i' the night when I come home.

I walk under Night's triumphal arch,
When I come home, when I come
home;
Exulting with life like a Conqueror's
march,
When I come home, when I come
home.
I pass by the rich-chambered mansions
that shine,
O'erflowing with splendour like goblets
with wine:
I have fought, I have vanquish't the dragon
of Toil,
And before me my golden Hesperides
smile!
And O but Love's flowers make rich the
gloom,
When I come home, when I come home!
Home, home, when I come home,
Far i' the night when I come home.

O the sweet, merry mouths up-turned to
be kist,
When I come home, when I come
home!
How the younglings yearn from the
hungry nest,
When I come home, when I come
home!
My weary, worn heart into sweetness is
stirred,
And it dances and sings like a singing
Bird,
On the branch nighest heaven,—a-top of
my life:
As I clasp my winsome, wooing Wife!
And her pale cheek with rich, tender
passion doth bloom,
When I come home, when I come home;
Home, home, when I come home,
Far i' the night when I come home.

Clouds furl off the shining face of my
life,
When I come home, when I come
home,
And leave heaven bare on her bosom,
sweet Wife,
When I come home, when I come
home.
With her brave smiling Energies,—Faith
warm and bright,—
With love glorified and serenely alight,—

With her womanly beauty and queenly
calm,
She steals to my heart with a blessing of
balm ;
And O but the wine of Love sparkles
with foam,
When I come home, when I come home !
Home, home, when I come home,
Far i' the night when I come home.

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A GLIMPSE OF AULD LANG-  
SYNE.

EARTH, sparkling Bride-like, bares her  
bosom to the nestling Night,  
Who hath come down in glory from the  
golden halls of light ;

Ten thousand tender, starry eyes smile  
o'er the world at rest,  
The weary world—husht like an infant on  
its mother's breast !

The great old hills thrust up their fore-  
heads in rich sleeping light :  
How humbly-grand, and still they stand,  
worshipping God to-night !

The flowers have hung their cups with  
geras of their own sweetness wrought,  
And muse and smile upon their stems, in  
ecstasy of thought :

They have banqueted on beauty, at the  
fragrant Eve's red lips,  
And fold in charmed rest, with crowns  
upon their velvet tips.

No green tide sweeps the sea of leaves,  
no wind-sigh stirs the sod,  
While Holiness broods dove-like on the  
soul, begetting God.

Sweet hour ! thou wak'st the feeling that  
we never know by day,  
For angel eyes look down, and read the  
spirit 'neath the clay :

Even while I listen, music stealth in  
upon my soul,  
As though adown heaven's stair of stars,  
the seraph-harvings stole—

Or I could grasp the immortal part of  
life, and soar, and soar,  
Such strong wings take me, and my heart  
hath found such hidden iore !

It flings aside the weight of years, and  
lovingly goes back,  
To that sweet time, the dear old days,  
that glisten on its track !

Life's withered leaves grow green again,  
and fresh with Childhood's spring,  
As I am welcomed back once more  
within its rainbow ring :—

The Past, with all its gathered charms,  
beckons me back in joy,  
And loving hearts, and open arms, re-  
clasp me as a boy.

The voices of the Loved and Lost are  
stirring at my heart,  
And memory's miser'd treasures leap to  
life, with sudden start,—

As through her darkened windows, warm  
and glad sunlight creeps in,  
And Lang-syne, glimps'd in glorious tears,  
my toil-worn soul doth win.

Thou art looking, smiling on me, as thou  
hast lookt and smiled, Mother,  
And I am sitting by thy side, at heart a  
very child, Mother !

I'm with thee now in soul, sweet Mother,  
much as in those hours,  
When all my wealth was in thy love, and  
in the birds and flowers ;

When the long summer days were short,  
for my glad soul to live  
The golden fulness of the bliss, each  
happy hour could give ;

When Heaven sang to my innocence,  
and every leafy grove  
And forest ached with music, as a young  
heart aches with love ;

When life oped like a flower, where clung  
my lips, to quaff its honey,  
And joys thronged like a shower of gold  
king-cups in meadows sunny.



I'll tell thee, Mother! since we met, stern  
changes have come o'er me;  
Then life smiled like a paradise, the  
world was all before me.

O! I was full of trusting faith, and, in my  
glee and gladness,  
Deemed not that others had begun as  
bright, whose end was madness.

I knew not smiles could light up eyes,  
like Sunset's laughing glow  
On some cold stream, which burns above,  
while all runs dark below;

That on Love's summer sea, great souls go  
down, while some, grown cold,  
Seal up affection's living spring, and sell  
their love for gold;

How they on whom we'd staked the heart  
forget the early vow,  
And they who swore to love through life  
would pass all coldly now;

How, in the soul's dark hour, Love's  
temple-veil is rent in twain,  
And the heart quivers thorn-crowned on  
the cross of fiery pain.

And shattered idols, broken dreams,  
come crowding on my brain,  
As speaks the spirit-voice of days that  
never come again.

It tells of golden moments lost—heart  
seared—blind Passion's thrall;  
Life's spring-tide blossoms run to waste,  
Love's honey turned to gall.

It tells how many and often high resolve  
and purpose strong,  
Shaped on the anvil of my heart, have  
failed upon my tongue.

I left thee, Mother, in sweet May, the  
merry month of flowers,  
To toil away in dusky gloom the golden  
summer hours.

I left my world of love behind, with soul  
for life a-thirsting,  
My burning eyelid dropt no tear, although  
my heart was bursting.

For I had knit my soul to climb, with  
poverty its burden;  
Give me but time, O give me time, and I  
would win the guerdon.

Ah! Mother! many a heart that all my  
aspiration cherisht,  
Hath fallen in the trampling strife, and in  
the life-march perisht.

We see the bleeding victims lie upon the  
world's grim Altar,  
And one by one young feelings die, and  
dark doubts make us falter.

Mother, the world hath wreapt its part on  
me, with scathing power,  
Yet the best life that heaves my heart runs  
for thee at this hour;

And by these holy yearnings, by these  
eyes with sweet tears wet,  
I know there wells a spring of love through  
all my being yet.

#### HOPE ON, HOPE EVER.

HOPE on, hope ever! though to-day be  
dark,

The sweet sunburst may smile on thee  
to-morrow:

Tho' thou art lonely, there's an eye will  
mark

Thy loneliness, and guerdon all thy  
sorrow!

Tho' thou must toil 'mong cold and sordid  
men,

With none to echo back thy thought,  
or love thee,

Cheer up, poor heart! thou dost not beat  
in vain,

For God is over all, and heaven above  
thee—

Hope on, hope ever.

The iron may enter in and pierce thy  
soul,

But cannot kill the love within thee  
burning!

The tears of misery, thy bitter dole,  
Can never quench thy true heart's  
seraph yearning

For better things : nor crush thy ardour's  
trust,  
That Error from the mind shall be up-  
rooted,  
That Truths shall dawn as flowers spring  
from the dust,  
And Love be cherisht where Hate was  
embruted !  
Hope on, hope ever.

I know 'tis hard to bear the sneer and  
taunt,—  
With the heart's honest pride at mid-  
night wrestle ;  
To feel the killing canker-worm of  
Want,  
While rich rogues in their stolen luxury  
nestle ;  
For I have felt it. Yet from Earth's cold  
Real  
My soul looks out on coming things,  
and cheerful  
The warm Sunrise floods all the land  
Ideal,  
And still it whispers to the worn and  
tearful,  
Hope on, hope ever.

Hope on, hope ever ! after darkest  
night,  
Comes, full of loving life, the laughing  
Morning ;  
Hope on, hope ever ! Spring-tide, flusht  
with light,  
Aye crowns old Winter with her rich  
adorning.  
Hope on, hope ever ! yet the time shall  
come,  
When man to man shall be a friend and  
brother ;  
And this old world shall be a happy  
home,  
And all Earth's family love one an-  
other !  
Hope on, hope ever.

~~~~~  
DESOLATE.

THE day goes down red darkling,
The moaning waves dash out the light,
And there is not a star of hope sparkling
On the threshold of my night.

Wild winds of Autumn go, wailing
Up the valley and over the hill,
Like yearning ghosts round the world
sailing,
In search of the old love still.

A fathomless sea is rolling
O'er the wreck of the bravest bark ;
And my pain-muffled heart is tolling
Its dumb-peal down in the dark.

The waves of a mighty sorrow
Have whelmed the pearl of my life :
And there cometh to me no morrow
Shall solace this desolate strife.

Gone are the last faint flashes,
Set is the sun of my years ;
And over a few poor ashes
I sit in my darkness and tears.

~~~~~  
TO A BELOVED ONE.

HEAVEN hath its crown of stars, the  
earth  
Her glory robe of flowers—  
The sea its gems—the grand old woods  
Their songs and greening showers :  
The birds have homes, where leaves and  
blooms  
In beauty wreathe above ;  
High yearning hearts, their rainbow-  
dream—  
And we, sweet ! we have love.

We walk not with the jewelled great,  
Where Love's dear name is sold ;  
Yet have we wealth we would not give  
For all their world of gold !  
We revel not in corn and wine,  
Yet have we from above  
Manna divine, and we'll not pine,  
While we may live and love.

There's sorrow for the toiling poor,  
On misery's bosom nursed :  
Rich robes for ragged souls, and crowns  
For branded brows Cain-curs'd !

But cherubim, with clasping wings,  
 Ever about us be,  
 And, happiest of God's happy things !  
 There's love for you and me.

The lips that kiss till death, have turned  
 Life's water into wine ;  
 The sweet life melting thro' thy looks,  
 Hath made my life divine.  
 All Love's dear promise hath been kept,  
 Since thou to me wert given ;  
 A ladder for my soul to climb,  
 And summer high in heaven.

I know, dear heart ! that in our lot  
 May mingle tears and sorrow ;  
 But love's rich rainbow's built from tears  
 To-day, with smiles to-morrow.  
 The sunshine from our sky may die,  
 The greenness from life's tree,  
 But ever, 'mid the warring storm,  
 Thy nest shall sheltered be.

I see thee ! Ararat of my life,  
 Smiling the waves above !  
 Thou hail'st me victor in the strife,  
 And beacon'st me with love.  
 The world may never know, dear heart !  
 What I have found in thee !  
 But, tho' nought to the world, dear heart !  
 Thou'rt all the world to me.

### THE INFANT'S GRAVE.

WITHIN a mile of Edinburgh town  
 We laid our little darling down ;  
 Our first seed in God's acre sown !

So sweet a place ! Death looks beguiled  
 Of half his gloom ; or sure he smiled  
 To win our wondrous spirit-child,

God giveth His Beloved sleep  
 So calm, within its silence deep,  
 As angel-guards the watch did keep.

Th. city looketh solemn and sweet ;  
 It bares a gentle brow, to greet  
 The mourners mourning at its feet.

The sea of human life-breaks round  
 This shore of death, with softened sound,  
 Wild-flowers climb each mossy mound

To place in resting hands their palm,  
 And breathe their beauty, bloom, and  
 balm ;  
 Folding the dead in fragrant calm.

A softer shadow grief might wear ;  
 And old heartache come gather there  
 The peace that falleth after prayer.

Poor heart, that danced among the vines  
 All reeling-ripe with sweet love-wines,  
 Thou walk'st with Death among the  
 pines !

Lorn Mother, at the dark grave-door,  
 She kneeleth, pleading o'er and o'er,  
 But it is shut for evermore.

Blind, blind ! She feels, but cannot read  
 Aright ; then leans as she would feed  
 The dear dead lips that never heed.

The spirit of life may leap above,  
 But in that grave her prisoned dove  
 Lies, cold to the warm embrace of love,

And dark, tho' all the world is bright ;  
 And lonely, with a city in sight ;  
 And desolate in the rainy night.

Ah, God ! when in the glad life-cup  
 The face of Death swims darkly up ;  
 The crowning flower is sure to droop.

And so we laid our darling down,  
 When Summer's cheek grew ripely brown,  
 And still, tho' grief hath milder grown,

Unto the stranger's land we cleave,  
 Like some poor birds that grieve and  
 grieve,  
 Round the robbed nest, and cannot leave.

(CHARLES MACKAY.)

## ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP.

*Egeria.*

A GLORIOUS vision burst upon their sight,  
 As on the topmost peak they took their  
 stand,  
 To gaze from that clear centre on the  
 world,  
 And measure with their proud delighted  
 eyes  
 The vast circumference, whose radius  
 stretched,  
 Seaward and landward, each for fifty  
 miles.  
 Beneath their feet a burnished ocean lay,  
 Glittering in sunshine. Far adown, like  
 snow,  
 Shook from the bosom of a wintry cloud,  
 And drifting on the wind in feathery  
 flakes  
 The sea-gulls sailed betwixt the earth and  
 sky,  
 Or, floating on the bosom of the deep,  
 Pursued the herring shoal with dexterous  
 aim.  
 Far, far away, on the horizon's edge,  
 The white sails of the homeward scudding  
 ships  
 Gleamed like the lilies in a garden plot,  
 Or like the scattered shreds of fleecy  
 cloud  
 Left by the Evening at the gate of Night,  
 To shimmer in the leaden-coloured sky,  
 And drink the splendour of the harvest  
 moon,  
 Their glancing breasts reflected from afar  
 The noonday sunlight.—Landward when  
 they looked,  
 The earth beneath them seemed as it had  
 boiled,  
 And tossed, and heaved, in some great  
 agony;  
 Till suddenly, at fiat of the Lord,  
 The foaming waves had hardened into  
 hills,  
 And mountains, multitudinous and huge,  
 Of jagged outline, piled and overpiled,  
 One o'er the other. Calmly the grey  
 heads  
 Of these earth-fathers pointed up to  
 heaven —

Titanic sentinels, who all the night  
 Look at their kindred sentinels, the stars,  
 To hear the march and tramp of distant  
 worlds,

And measure by millenniums, not by  
 years, [time!

The awful growth and progress of the  
 Between the bases of the lesser hills,  
 Green valleys, musical with lowing kine,  
 And watered by the upland overflow,  
 Stretched in their beauty. In the hollows  
 slept

Clear lakes, which from those azure  
 heights appeared

Small as the basins where the Oreads  
 Might bathe, at morning-burst, their  
 tender limbs.

Most beautiful the nearer landscape lay;  
 The distant panorama, more confused,  
 Melted away in purple haziness.

I am so happy in such scenes as these,  
 And yet so sad, and so dissatisfied;  
 I feel one moment I could leap for joy,  
 And in the next that I could lie me down  
 And weep that my enjoyment is so small,  
 And that such beauty and sublimity,  
 Such glory and such wonder, should not  
 be

Part of myself for ever. Oh, thou Deep!  
 Rolling beneath me thine eternal waves,  
 I feel myself thine equal, as I stand  
 And look upon thee from a height like  
 this,

With thronging thoughts no tongue may  
 ever speak!

Thou blue sky! circling all in thine  
 embrace;

Oh, how I envy the air-cleaving wings  
 Of Alpine eagles, and the liberty  
 Of motion, unrestrained by clogs of  
 Earth! [tops!

Ye hills, I love ye! Oh, ye mountain  
 Lifting serenely your transcendent brows  
 To catch the earliest glimpses of the  
 dawn,

And hold the latest radiance of the West,  
 To gild you with its glory, while the  
 world

Hastens to slumber in the glooms below;  
 It is a pain to know ye, and to feel,  
 That nothing can express the deep delight  
 With which your beauty and magnificence  
 Fill to o'erflowing the ecstatic mind.

## LOUISE ON THE DOOR-STEP.

HALF-PAST three in the morning !  
 And no one in the street  
 But me, on the sheltering door-step  
 Resting my weary feet :  
 Watching the rain-drops patter  
 And dance where the puddles run,  
 As bright in the flaring gaslight  
 As dewdrops in the sun.

There's a light upon the pavement—  
 It shines like a magic glass,  
 And there are faces in it  
 That look at me and pass.  
 Faces—ah ! well remembered  
 In the happy Long Ago,  
 When my garb was white as lilies,  
 And my thoughts as pure as snow.

Faces ! ah, yes ! I see them—  
 One, two, and three—and four—  
 That come in the gust of tempests,  
 And go on the winds that bore.  
 Changeful and evanescent,  
 They shine 'mid storm and rain,  
 Till the terror of their beauty  
 Lies deep upon my brain.

One of them frowns ; I know him,  
 With his thin long snow-white  
 hair,—  
 Cursing his wretched daughter  
 That drove him to despair.  
 And the other, with wakening pity  
 In her large tear-streaming eyes,  
 Seems as she yearned toward me,  
 And whispered "Paradise."

They pass,—they melt in the ripples,  
 And I shut mine eyes, that burn,  
 To escape another vision  
 That follows where'er I turn—  
 The face of a false deceiver  
 That lives and lies ; ah, me !  
 Though I see it in the pavement,  
 Mocking my misery !

They are gone ! — all three ! — quite  
 vanished !  
 Let nothing call them back !  
 For I've had enough of phantoms,  
 And my heart is on the rack !

God help me in my sorrow ;  
 But *there*,—in the wet, cold stone,  
 Smiling in heavenly beauty,  
 I see my lost, mine own !

There, on the glimmering pavement,  
 With eyes as blue as morn,  
 Floats by the fair-haired darling  
 Too soon from my bosom torn.  
 She clasps her tiny fingers—  
 She calls me sweet and mild,  
 And says that my God forgives me  
 For the sake of my little child.

I will go to her grave to-morrow,  
 And pray that I may die ;  
 And I hope that my God will take me  
 Ere the days of my youth go by.  
 For I am old in anguish,  
 And long to be at rest,  
 With my little babe beside me,  
 And the daisies on my breast.

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THE DEATH-SONG OF
 THE POET.

I.

I HAVE a people of mine own,
 And great or small, whate'er they be,
 'Tis Harp and Harper, touch and tone—
 There's music between them and me.

II.

And let none say, when low in death
 The soul-inspiring minstrel lies,
 That I misused my hand or breath
 For favour in the people's eyes.

III.

Whate'er my faults as mortal man,
 Let foes revive them if they must !
 And yet a grave is ample span
 To hide their memory with my dust !

IV.

But give, oh ! give me what I claim,—
 The Harper's meed, the Minstrel's
 crown—
 I never sang for sake of Fame,
 Or clutched at baubles of renown.

V.

I spoke my thought, I sang my song,
Because I pitied, felt, and knew;
I never glorified a wrong,
Or sang approval of th' untrue.

VI.

And if I touched the people's heart,
Is that a crime in true men's eyes,
Or desecration of an art
That speaks to human sympathies?

VII.

As man, let men my worth deny;
As Harper, by my harp I stand,
And dare the Future to deny
The might that quivered from my hand.

VIII.

A King of Bards, though scorned and poor,
I feel the crown upon my head,
And Time shall but the more secure
My right to wear it.—I have said.

THE LOST DAV.

I.

FAREWELL, oh day misspent;
Thy fleeting hours were lent
In vain to my endeavour.
In shade and sun
Thy race is run
For ever! oh, for ever!
The leaf drops from the tree,
The sand falls in the glass,
And to the dread Eternity
The dying minutes pass.

II.

It was not till thine end
I knew thou wert my friend;
But now, thy worth recalling,
My grief is strong
I did thee wrong,
And scorned thy treasures falling.
But sorrow comes too late;
Another day is born;—
Pass, minutes, pass; may better fate
Attend to-morrow morn.

III.

Oh, birth! oh, death of Time!
Oh, mystery sublime!
Ever the rippling ocean
Brings forth the wave
To smile or rave,
And die of its own motion.
A little wave to strike
The sad responsive shore,
And be succeeded by its like
Ever and evermore.

IV.

Oh change from same to same!
Oh quenched, yet burning flame!
Oh new birth, born of dying!
Oh transient ray!
Oh speck of day!
Approaching and yet flying;—
Pass to Eternity.
Thou day, that came in vain!
A new wave surges on the sea—
The world grows young again.

V.

Come in, To-day, come in!
I have confessed my sin
To thee, young promise-bearer!
New Lord of Earth!
I hail thy birth—
The crown awaits the weaver.
Child of the ages past!
Sire of a mightier line!
On the same deeps our lot is cast!
The world is thine—and mine!

PIETY.

Egeria.

O Piety! O heavenly Piety!
She is not rigid as fanatics deem,
But warm as Love, and beautiful as
Hope.

Prop of the weak, the crown of humble-
ness,
The clue of doubt, the eyesight of the
blind,
The heavenly robe and garniture of clay.

He that is crowned with that supernal crown,
Is lord and sovereign of himself and Fate,
And angels are his friends and ministers.

Clad in that raiment, ever white and pure,
The wayside mire is harmless to defile,
And rudest storms sweep impotently by.

The pilgrim wandering amid crags and pits,
Supported by that staff shall never fall :—
He smiles at peril, and defies the storm.

Shown by that clue, the doubtful path is clear,
The intricate snares and mazes of the world
Are all unlabrynthed and bright as day.

Sweet Piety ! divinest Piety !
She has a soul capacious as the spheres,
A heart as large as all humanity.

Who to his dwelling takes that visitant,
Has a perpetual solace in all pain,
A friend and comforter in every grief.

The noblest domes, the haughtiest palaces,
That know not her, have ever open gates
Where Misery may enter at her will.

But from the threshold of the poorest hut,
Where she sits smiling, Sorrow passes by,
And owns the spell that robs her of her sting.

TUBAL CAIN.

I.

OLD Tubal Cain was a man of might
In the days when Earth was young ;
By the fierce red light of his furnace bright
The strokes of his hammer rung ;
And he lifted high his brawny hand
On the iron glowing clear,
Till the sparks rushed out in scarlet showers,
As he fashioned the sword and spear.

And he sang—"Hurra for my handi-
work !

Hurra for the spear and sword !
Hurra for the hand that shall wield them
well,
For he shall be king and lord !"

II.

To Tubal Cain came many a one,
As he wrought by his roaring fire,
And each one prayed for a strong steel
blade

As the crown of his desire : [strong,
And he made them weapons sharp and
Till they shouted loud for glee,
And gave him gifts of pearl and gold,
And spoils of the forest free.
And they sang—"Hurra for Tubal Cain,
Who hath given us strength anew !
Hurra for the smith, hurra for the fire,
And hurra for the metal true !"

III.

But a sudden change came o'er his heart
Ere the setting of the sun,
And Tubal Cain was filled with pain
For the evil he had done ;
He saw that men, with rage and hate,
Made war upon their kind,
That the land was red with the blood
they shed
In their lust for carnage blind.
And he said—"Alas ! that ever I made,
Or that skill of mine should plan,
The spear and the sword for men whose
joy
Is to slay their fellow man."

IV.

And for many a day old Tubal Cain
Sat brooding o'er his woe ;
And his hand forebore to smite the ore
And his furnace smouldered low.
But he rose at last with a cheerful face,
And a bright courageous eye,
And bared his strong right arm for work,
While the quick flames mounted high.
And he sang—"Hurra for my handi-
craft !"
And the red sparks lit the air ;
"Not alone for the blade was the bright
steel made ;"
And he fashioned the first ploughshare

v.

And men, taught wisdom from the past,
 In friendship joined their hands,
 Hung the sword in the hall, the spear on
 the wall,
 And ploughed the willing lands ;
 And sang—" Hurra for Tubal Cain !
 Our staunch good friend is he ;
 And for the ploughshare and the plough
 To him our praise shall be.
 But while oppression lifts its head,
 Or a tyrant would be lord,
 Though we may thank him for the
 plough,
 We'll not forget the sword ! "

THE RIM OF THE BOWL.

I SAT 'mid the flickering lights, when all
 the guests had departed,
 Alone at the head of the table, and
 dreamed of the days that were gone ;
 Neither asleep nor waking, nor sad nor
 cheery-hearted—
 But passive as a leaf by the wild
 November blown.
 I thought—if thinking 'twere, when
 thoughts were dimmer than shadows—
 And toyed the while with the music I
 drew from the rim of the bowl,
 Passing my fingers round, as if my will
 compelled it
 To answer my shapeless dreams, as
 soul might answer soul.
 Idle I was, and listless ; but melody and
 fancy
 Came out of that tremulous dulcimer,
 as my hand around it strayed ;
 The rim was a magic circle, and mine
 was the necromancy
 That summoned its secrets forth, to
 take the forms I bade.
 Secrets ! ay ! buried secrets, forgotten for
 twenty summers,
 But living anew in the odours of the
 roses at the board ;
 Secrets of Truth and Passion, and the
 days of Life's unreason ;
 Perhaps not at all atoned for, in the
 judgments of the LORD.

Secrets that still shall slumber, for I will
 not bare my bosom
 To the gaze of the heartless, prying,
 unconscionable crowd,
 That would like to know, I doubt not,
 how much I have sinned and suffered,
 And drag me down to its level—be-
 cause it would humble the proud.
 Beautiful spirits they were, that danced
 on the rim at my bidding :
 Spirits of Joy or Sadness, in their brief
 sweet Summer day ;
 Spirits that aye possess me, and keep me,
 if I wander,
 In the line of the straight, and the
 flower of the fruitful way.

Spirits of women and children—spirits of
 friends departed—
 Spirits of dear companions that have
 gone to the levelling tomb,
 Hallowed for ever and ever with the
 sanctity of sorrow,
 And the aureole of death that crowns
 them in the gloom.
 Spirits of Hope and Faith, and one
 supremely lovely,
 That sang to me years ago, when I
 was a little child,
 And sported at her footstool, or lay upon
 her bosom,
 And gazed at the Love that dazzled me
 from her eyes so soft and mild.
 And that song from the rim of the bowl
 came sounding and sounding ever—
 As oft it had done before in the toil
 and moil of life ;
 A song nor sad nor merry, but low and
 sweet and plaintive ;
 A clarion blast in sorrow ; an anodyne
 in strife ;
 A song like a ray of moonlight that
 gleams athwart a tempest.
 Sound ever, O Song ! sound sweetly,
 whether I live or die,
 My guardian, my adviser, my comforter,
 my comrade,
 A voice from the sinless regions—a
 message from the sky !

SISYPHUS.

A Study from the Antique.

EVER and evermore
Upon the steep life-shore
Of Death's dark main,
Bare to the bitter skies,
His mournful task he plies
In vain, in vain !

Sometimes he looks to Heaven
And asks to be forgiven
The grievous pain.
The stars look sadly down,
The cold sun seems to frown—
In vain, in vain !

But kindly mother Earth,
Remembering his birth,
Doth not disdain
To sympathise with him,
So worn of heart and limb ;
In vain, in vain !

Is not his fate her own ?
The rolling toilsome stone
Rolled back again ?
Are not her children's woes
The very same he knows ?—
In vain, in vain !

Do not all Earth and Sea
Repeat Eternally
Th' unvarying strain ?
The old and sad lament
With human voices blent,
In vain, in vain !

Through the green forest arch
The wild winds in their march
Sigh and complain ;
The torrent on the hill
Moans to the midnight chill,
In vain, in vain !

The hoarse monotonous waves
Attune from all their caves,
Through storm and rain,
The melancholy cry,
To listening Earth and sky,
In vain, in vain !

Love mourns its early dead ;
Hope its illusions fled,
Or rudely slain ;
And Wealth and Power prolong
The same, th' eternal song,
In vain, in vain !

Toil, Sisyphus, toil on !
Thou'rt many, though but one !
Toil heart and brain !
One—but the type of all
Rolling the dreadful ball,
In vain ! in vain !

I LOVE MY LOVE.

I.

WHAT is the meaning of the song
That rings so clear and loud,
Thou nightingale amid the copse—
Thou lark above the cloud ?
What says thy song, thou joyous thrush,
Up in the walnut-tree ?
"I love my Love, because I know
My Love loves me."

II.

What is the meaning of thy thought,
O maiden fair and young ?
There is such pleasure in thine eyes,
Such music on thy tongue ;
There is such glory on thy face—
What can the meaning be ?
"I love my Love, because I know
My Love loves me."

III.

O happy words ! at Beauty's feet
We sing them ere our prime ;
And when the early summers pass,
And Care comes on with Time,
Still be it ours, in Care's despite,
To join the chorus free—
"I love my Love, because I know
My Love loves me."

I LAY IN SORROW, DEEP
DISTRESSED.

I.

I LAY in sorrow, deep distressed :
My grief a proud man heard ;
His looks were cold, he gave me gold,
But not a kindly word.
My sorrow passed,—I paid him back
The gold he gave to me ;
Then stood erect and spoke my thanks,
And blessed his Charity.

II.

I lay in want, in grief and pain :
A poor man passed my way ;
He bound my head, he gave me bread,
He watched me night and day.
How shall I pay him back again,
For all he did to me ?
Oh, gold is great, but greater far
Is heavenly Sympathy !

~~~~~  
YOUTH'S WARNING.

## I.

BEWARE, exulting youth, beware,  
When life's young pleasures woo,  
That ere you yield you shrive your heart,  
And keep your conscience true !  
For sake of silver spent to-day,  
Why pledge to-morrow's gold ?  
Or in hot blood implant Remorse,  
To grow when blood is cold ?  
*If wrong you do, if false you play,  
In summer among the flowers,  
You must atone, you shall repay,  
In winter among the showers.*

## II.

To turn the balances of Heaven  
Surpasses mortal power ;  
For every white there is a black,  
For every sweet a sour.  
For every up there is a down,  
For every folly, shame ;  
And retribution follows guilt,  
As burning follows flame.  
*If wrong you do, if false you play,  
In summer among the flowers,  
You must atone, you shall repay,  
In winter among the showers.*

## FAR, FAR UPON THE SEA.

## I.

FAR, far upon the sea,  
The good ship speeding free,  
Upon the deck we gather young and old ;  
And view the flapping sail,  
Spreading out before the gale,  
Full and round without a wrinkle or a  
fold :  
Or watch the waves that glide  
By the stately vessel's side,  
And the wild sea-birds that follow through  
the air.  
Or we gather in a ring,  
And with cheerful voices sing,  
Oh! gaily goes the ship when the wind  
blows fair.

## II.

Far, far upon the sea,  
With the sunshine on our lee,  
We talk of pleasant days when we were  
young,  
And remember, though we roam,  
The sweet melodies of home—  
The songs of happy childhood which we  
sung.  
And though we quit her shore,  
To return to it no more,  
Sound the glories that Britannia yet shall  
bear ;  
That "Britons rule the waves,"  
"And never shall be slaves."  
Oh! gaily goes the ship when the wind  
blows fair.

## III.

Far, far upon the sea,  
Whate'er our country be,  
The thought of it shall cheer us as we go.  
And Scotland's sons shall join,  
In the song of "Auld Lang Syne,"  
With voice by memory softened, clear and  
low.  
And the men of Erin's Isle,  
Battling sorrow with a smile,  
Shall sing "St. Patrick's Morning," void  
of care ;  
And thus we pass the day,  
As we journey on the way ;—  
Oh! gaily goes the ship when the wind  
blows fair.

## AMERICAN POETS.

[LYDIA HUNTLY SIGOURNEY. 1791—1865.]

## DEATH OF AN INFANT.

DEATH found strange beauty on that  
 polished brow,  
 And dashed it out. There was a tint of  
 rose  
 O'er cheek and lip. He touched the  
 veins with ice,  
 And the rose faded.

Forth from those blue eyes  
 There spake a wistful tenderness, a doubt  
 Whether to grieve or sleep, which inno-  
 cence

Alone may wear. With ruthless haste he  
 bound

The silken fringes of those curtaining lids  
 For ever.

There had been a murmuring sound,  
 With which the babe would claim its  
 mother's ear,

Charming her even to tears. The spoiler  
 set

The seal of silence.

But there beamed a smile,  
 So fixed, so holy, from that cherub brow,  
 Death gazed, and left it there. He dared  
 not steal

The signet-ring of heaven.

## MIDNIGHT THOUGHTS AT SEA.

BORNE upon the ocean's foam,  
 Far from native land and home,  
 Midnight's curtain, dense with wrath,  
 Brooding o'er our venturous path,  
 While the mountain wave is rolling,  
 And the ship's bell faintly tolling :  
 Saviour ! on the boisterous sea,  
 Bid us rest secure in Thee.

Blast and surge, conflicting hoarse,  
 Sweep us on with headlong force ;  
 And the bark, which tempests surge,  
 Moans and trembles at their scourge :

Yet, should wildest tempests swell,  
 Be thou near, and all is well.  
 Saviour ! on the stormy sea,  
 Let us find repose in Thee.

Hearts there are with love that burn  
 When to us afar they turn ;  
 Eyes that show the rushing tear  
 If our uttered names they hear :  
 Saviour ! o'er the faithless main  
 Bring us to those homes again,  
 As the trembler, touched by Thee  
 Safely trod the treacherous sea.

Wrecks are darkly spread below,  
 Where with lonely keel we go ;  
 Gentle brows and bosoms brave  
 Those abysses richly pave :  
 If beneath the briny deep  
 We, with them, should coldly sleep,  
 Saviour ! o'er the whelming sea,  
 Take our ransomed soul to Thee.

FAREWELL OF THE SOUL TO  
THE BODY.

COMPANION dear ! the hour draws nigh,  
 The sentence speeds—to die, to die.  
 So long in mystic union held,  
 So close with strong embrace compelled,  
 How canst thou bear the dread decree,  
 That strikes thy clasping nerves from me.  
 —To Him who on this mortal shore,  
 The same encircling vestment wore,  
 To Him I look, to Him I bend,  
 To Him thy shuddering frame commend.  
 —If I have ever caused thee pain,  
 The throbbing breast, the burning brain,  
 With cares and vigils turned thee pale,  
 And scorned thee when thy strength did  
 fail,  
 Forgive ! forgive !—thy task doth cease,  
 Friend ! Lover !—let us part in peace.  
 If thou didst sometimes check my force,  
 Or, trifling, stay mine upward course,

Or lure from Heaven my wavering trust,  
 Or bow my drooping wing to dust,  
 I blame thee not, the strife is done ;  
 I knew thou wert the weaker one,  
 The vase of earth, the trembling clod,  
 Constrained to hold the breath of God.  
 —Well hast thou in my service wrought ;  
 Thy brow hath mirrored forth my  
     thought ;  
 To wear my smile thy lip hath glowed ;  
 Thy tear, to speak my sorrows, flowed ;  
 Thine ear hath borne me rich supplies  
 Of sweetly varied melodies ;  
 Thy hands my prompted deeds have  
     done ;  
 Thy feet upon mine errands run—  
 Yes, thou hast marked my bidding well.  
 Faithful and true ! farewell, farewell.

—Go to thy rest. A quiet bed  
 Meek mother Earth with flowers shall  
     spread,

Where I no more thy sleep may break  
 With fevered dream, nor rudely wake  
 Thy wearied eye.

Oh, quit thy hold,  
 For thou art faint, and chill, and cold,  
 And long thy gasp and groan of pain  
 Have bound me pitying in thy chain,  
 Though angels urge me hence to soar,  
 Where I shall share thine ills no more.  
 —Yet we shall meet. To soothe thy  
     pain,

Remember, we shall meet again.  
 Quell with this hope the victor's sting,  
 And keep it as a signet-ring.  
 When the dire worm shall pierce thy  
     breast,  
 And nought but ashes mark thy rest :  
 When stars shall fall, and skies grow  
     dark,  
 And proud suns quench their glow-worm  
     spark,

Keep thou that hope to light thy gloom,  
 Till the last trumpet rends the tomb.  
 —Then shaft thou glorious rise, and fair,  
 Nor spot nor stain nor wrinkle bear ;  
 And I, with hovering wing elate,  
 The bursting of thy bonds shall wait,  
 And breathe the welcome of the sky—  
 “No more to part, no more to die,  
 Co heir of Immortality.”

### THE EARLY BLUE-BIRD.

BLUE-BIRD ! on yon leafless tree,  
 Dost thou carol thus to me,  
 “Spring is coming ! Spring is here !”  
 Say'st thou so, my birdie dear ?  
 What is that, in misty shroud,  
 Stealing from the darken'd cloud ?  
 Lo ! the snow-flakes' gathering mound  
 Settles o'er the whitened ground,  
 Yet thou singest, blithe and clear,  
 “Spring is coming ! Spring is here !”

Strik'st thou not too bold a strain ?  
 Winds are piping o'er the plain ;  
 Clouds are sweeping o'er the sky  
 With a black and threatening eye ;  
 Urchins, by the frozen rill,  
 Wrap their mantles closer still ;  
 Yon poor man, with doublet old,  
 Doth he shiver at the cold ?  
 Hath he not a nose of blue ?  
 Tell me, birdling, tell me true.

Spring's a maid of mirth and glee,  
 Rosy wreaths and revelry :  
 Hast thou wooed some winged love  
 To a nest in verdant grove ?  
 Sung to her of greenwood bower,  
 Sunny skies that never lower ?  
 Lured her with thy promise fair  
 Of a lot that knows no care ?  
 Prythee, bird, in coat of blue,  
 Though a lover, tell her true.

Ask her if, when storms are long,  
 She can sing a cheerful song ?  
 When the rude winds rock the tree,  
 If she'll closer cling to thee ?  
 Then the blasts that sweep the sky,  
 Unappalled shall pass thee by ;  
 Though thy curtained chamber show  
 Siftings of untimely snow,  
 Warm and glad thy heart shall be,  
 Love shall make it Spring for thee.

### NO CONCEALMENT.

“There is nothing covered that shall not be  
 revealed ; and hid that shall not be known.”—  
*St. Matt.*

THINK'ST thou to be concealed, thou  
 little stream !  
 That through the lowly vale dost wind  
 thy way,

Loving beneath the darkest arch to glide  
 Of woven branches, blent with hillocks gray?  
 The mist doth track thee, and reveal thy course  
 Unto the dawn, and a bright line of green  
 Tingeth thy marge, and the white flocks that haste  
 At summer-noon, to drink thy crystal sheen,  
 Make plain thy wanderings to the eye of day;  
 And then thy smiling answer to the moon,  
 Whose beams so freely on thy bosom sleep,  
 Unfold thy secret, even to night's dull noon.  
 How couldst thou hope, in such a world as this,  
 To shroud thy gentle path of beauty and of bliss?

Think'st thou to be concealed, thou little seed!  
 That in the bosom of the earth art cast,  
 And there, like cradled infant, sleep'st awhile,  
 Unmoved by trampling storm, or thunder blast?  
 Thou bidest thy time, for herald spring shall come  
 And wake thee, all unwilling as thou art,  
 Unhood thine eyes, unfold thy clasping sheath,  
 And stir the languid pulses of thy heart.  
 The loving rains shall woo thee, and the dews  
 Weep o'er thy bed, till, ere thou art aware,  
 Forth steals the tender leaf, the wiry stem,  
 The trembling bud, the flower that scents the air;  
 And soon, to all, thy ripened fruitage tells  
 The evil or the good that in thy nature dwells.

Think'st thou to be concealed, thou little thought!  
 That in the curtained chamber of the soul  
 Dost wrap thyself so close, and dream to do  
 A hidden work? Look to the hues that roll  
 O'er the changed brow, the moving lip behold,  
 Linking thee unto sound, the feet that run  
 Upon thine errands, and the deeds that stamp  
 Thy likeness plain before the noonday sun.  
 Look to the pen that writes thy history down  
 In those tremendous books that ne'er uncloseth  
 Until the Day of Doom; and blush to see  
 How vain thy trust in darkness to repose,  
 Where all things tend to judgment. So beware,  
 Oh erring human heart, what thoughts thou lodgest there.

#### THE VIRGINIAN COLONISTS.

*Pocahontas.*

CLIME of the West! that to the hunter's bow,  
 And roving hordes of savage men, wert sold,—  
 Their cone-roofed wigwams pierced the wintry snow,  
 Their tasselled corn crept sparsely through the mould,  
 Their bark canoes thy glorious waters claved,  
 The chase their glory, and the wild their grave—  
 Look up! a loftier destiny behold,  
 For to thy coast the fair-haired Saxon steers,  
 Rich with the spoils of time, the lore of bards and seers.

Behold a sail ! another, and another !  
 Like living things on the broad  
 river's breast ;—  
 What were thy secret thoughts, oh,  
 red-browed brother,  
 As toward the shore these white-  
 winged wanderers prest ?  
 But lo ! emerging from her forest  
 zone,  
 The bow and quiver o'er her shoulder  
 thrown,  
 With nodding plumes her raven  
 tresses drest,  
 Of queenly step, and form erect and  
 bold,  
 Yet mute with wondering awe, the New  
 World meets the Old.

Roll on, majestic flood, in power and  
 pride,  
 Which like a sea doth swell old  
 ocean's sway ;—  
 With hasting keel, thy pale-faced spon-  
 sors glide  
 To keep the pageant of thy christen-  
 ing day.  
 They bless thy wave, they bid thee  
 leave unsung  
 The uncouth baptism of a barbarous  
 tongue,  
 And take his name,—the Stuart's,—  
 first to bind  
 The Scottish thistle in the lion's mane,  
 Of all old Albion's kings, most versatile  
 and vain.

### NIAGARA.

FLOW on for ever, in thy glorious  
 robe  
 Of terror and of beauty. Yea, flow or  
 Unfathomed and resistless. God hath  
 set  
 His rainbow on thy forehead, and the  
 cloud  
 Mantled around thy feet. And he doth  
 give  
 Thy voice of thunder power to speak of  
 Him  
 Eternally—bidding the lip of man  
 Keep silence—and upon thine altar pour  
 Incense of awe-struck praise.

Earth fears to lift  
 The insect-trump that tells her trifling  
 joys  
 Or fleeting triumphs, 'mid the peal sub-  
 lime  
 Of thy tremendous hymn. Proud Ocean  
 shrinks  
 Back from thy brotherhood, and all his  
 waves  
 Retire abashed. For he hath need to  
 sleep,  
 Sometimes, like a spent labourer, calling  
 home  
 His boisterous billows, from their vexing  
 play,  
 To a long dreary calm : but thy strong  
 tide  
 Faints not, nor e'er with failing heart  
 forgets  
 Its everlasting lesson, night nor day.  
 The morning stars, that hailed Creation's  
 birth,  
 Heard thy hoarse anthem mixing with  
 their song  
 Jehovah's name ; and the dissolving fires,  
 That wait the mandate of the day of  
 doom  
 To wreck the earth, shall find it deep in-  
 scribed  
 Upon thy rocky scroll.

The lofty trees  
 That list thy teachings, scorn the lighter  
 lore  
 Of the too fitful winds ; while their young  
 leaves  
 Gather fresh greenness from thy living  
 spray, [birds,  
 Yet tremble at the baptism. Lo ! yon  
 How bold they venture near, dipping  
 their wing  
 In all thy mist and foam. Perchance 'tis  
 meet  
 For them to touch thy garment's hem, or  
 stir  
 Thy diamond wreath, who sport upon  
 the cloud [heaven  
 Unblamed, or warble at the gate of  
 Without reproof. But, as for us, it seems  
 Scarce lawful with our erring lips to talk  
 Familiarly of thee. Methinks, to trace  
 Thine awful features with our pencil's  
 point  
 Were but to press on Sinai.

Thou dost speak  
Alone of God, who poured thee as a drop  
From his right-hand,—bidding the soul  
that looks  
Upon thy fearful majesty be still,  
Be humbly wrapped in its own nothing-  
ness,  
And lose itself in Him.

[RALPH WALDO EMERSON.]

### THRENODY.

THE South-wind brings  
Life, sunshine, and desire,  
And on every mount and meadow  
Breathes aromatic fire.  
But o'er the dead he has no power :  
The lost, the lost, he cannot restore.  
And, looking o'er the hills, I mourn  
The darling who shall not return.

I see my empty house,—  
I see my trees repair their boughs ;  
And he, the wondrous child,  
Whose silver warble wild  
Outvalued every pulsing sound  
Within the air's cerulean round,  
The hyacinthine boy, for whom  
Morn well might break, and April bloom ;  
The gracious boy who did adorn  
The world whereinto he was born,  
And by his countenance repay  
The favour of the loving Day,  
Has disappeared from the Day's eye.  
Far and wide, she cannot find him,—  
My hopes pursue, they cannot bind him ;  
Returned the day, this south-wind  
searches,

And finds young trees and budding  
birches,

But finds not the budding man.

Nature, who lost him, cannot remake  
him ;

Fate let him fall, Fate cannot retake  
Nature, Fate, men, him seek in vain.

And whither now, my truant, wise and  
sweet,

O, whither tend thy feet ?

I had the right, few days ago,

Thy steps to watch, thy place to know ;

How have I forfeited the right ?

Hast thou forgot me in a new delight ?

I hearken for thy household cheer,  
O eloquent child !  
Whose voice, an equal messenger,  
Conveyed thy meaning mild.  
What though the pains and joys,  
Whereof it spoke, were toys,  
Fitting his age and ken ;  
Yet fairest dames and bearded men,  
Who heard the sweet request,  
So gentle, wise, and grave,  
Bended with joy to his behest,—  
And let the world's affairs go by,  
Awhile to share his cordial game,  
Or mend his wicker wagon frame,  
Still plotting how their hungry ear  
That winsome voice again might hear :  
For his lips could well pronounce  
Words that were persuasions.

Gentlest guardians marked serene  
His early hope, his liberal mien ;  
Took counsel from his guiding eyes,  
To make this wisdom earthly wise.  
Ah ! vainly do these eyes recall  
The school-march, each day's festival ;  
When every morn my bosom glowed,  
To watch the convoy on the road :  
The babe in willow wagon closed,  
With rolling eyes and face composed,—  
With children forward and behind,  
Like Cupids studiously inclined.  
And he, the Chieftain, paced beside,  
The centre of the troop allied,  
With sunny face of sweet repose,  
To guard the babe from fancied foes.  
The little Captain innocent  
Took the eye with him as he went.  
Each village senior paused to scan,  
And speak the lovely caravan.

From the window I look out,  
To mark thy beautiful parade ;  
Stately marching in cap and coat,  
To some tune by fairies played ;  
A music heard by thee alone,  
To works as noble led thee on.  
Now Love and Pride, alas ! in vain,  
Up and down their glances strain.  
The painted sled stands where it stood,  
The kennel by the corded wood ;  
The gathered sticks to staunch the wall  
Of the snow-tower, when snow should  
fall ;

The ominous hole he dug in the sand,  
And childhood's castles, built or planned;  
His daily haunts I well discern,  
The poultry-yard, the shed, the barn,  
And every inch of garden ground,  
Paced by the blessed feet around;  
From the road-side to the brook,  
Whereinto he loved to look.

Step the meek birds where erst they ranged,

The wintry garden lies unchanged;  
The brook into the stream runs on,  
But the deep-eyed Boy is gone!

### GOOD-BYE, PROUD WORLD!

GOOD-BYE, proud world! I'm going home;

Thou art not my friend; I am not thine:

Too long through weary crowds I roam:—

A river ark on the ocean brine,  
Too long I am tossed like the driven foam;

But now, proud world, I'm going home.

Good-bye to Flattery's fawning face;  
To Grandeur with his wise grimace:  
To upstart Wealth's averted eye;  
To supple office, low and high;  
To crowded halls, to court and street,  
To frozen hearts, and hasting feet,  
To those who go, and those who come,  
Good-bye, proud world, I'm going home.

I go to seek my own hearth-stone,  
Bosomed in yon green hills alone;  
A secret lodge in a pleasant land,  
Whose groves the frolic fairies planned,  
Where arches green, the livelong day  
Echo the blackbird's roundelay,  
And evil men have never trod  
A spot that is sacred to thought and God.

O, when I am safe in my sylvan home,  
I mock at the pride of Greece and Rome;  
And when I am stretched beneath the pines  
Where the evening star so holy shines,

I laugh at the lore and pride of man,  
At the sophist schools, and the learned clan;

For what are they all in their high conceit,

When man in the bush with God may meet?

### THE APOLOGY.

THINK me not unkind and rude,  
That I walk alone in grove and glen;  
I go to the god of the wood  
To fetch his word to men.

Tax not my sloth that I  
Fold my arms beside the brook;  
Each cloud that floated in the sky  
Writes a letter in my book.

Chide me not, laborious band,  
For the idle flowers I brought;  
Every aster in my hand  
Goes home loaded with a thought.

There was never mystery  
But 'tis figured in the flowers;  
Was never secret history  
But birds tell it in the bowers.

One harvest from thy field  
Homeward brought the oxen strong  
A second crop thy acres yield,  
Which I gather in a song.

### DIRGE.

Knows he who tills this lonely field  
To reap its scanty corn,  
What mystic fruit his acres yield  
At midnight and at morn?

In the long sunny afternoon  
The plain was full of ghosts,  
I wandered up, I wandered down,  
Beset by pensive hosts.

The winding Concord gleamed below  
Pouring as wide a flood  
As when my brothers, long ago,  
Came with me to the wood.



But they are gone—the holy ones  
Who trod with me this lonely vale,  
The strong, star-bright companions  
Are silent, low, and pale.

My good, my noble, in their prime,  
Who made this world the feast it was,  
Who learned with me the lore of Time,  
Who loved this dwelling-place ;

They took this valley for their toy,  
They played with it in every mood,  
A cell for prayer, a hall for joy,  
They treated Nature as they would.

They coloured the whole horizon round,  
Stars flamed and faded as they bade,  
All echoes hearkened for their sound,  
They made the woodlands glad or mad.

I touch this flower of silken leaf  
Which once our childhood knew,  
Its soft leaves wound me with a grief  
Whose balsam never grew.

Hearken to yon pine warbler,  
Singing aloft in the tree ;  
Harkest thou, O traveller !  
What he singeth to me ?

Not unless God made sharp thine ear  
With sorrow such as mine,  
Out of that delicate lay couldst thou  
Its heavy tale divine.

Go, lonely man," it saith,  
"They loved thee from their birth,  
Their hands were pure, and pure their  
faith,  
There are no such hearts on earth.

"Ye drew one mother's milk,  
One chamber held ye all.  
A very tender history  
Did in your childhood fall.

"Ye cannot unlock your heart,  
The key is gone with them ;  
The silent organ loudest chants  
The master's requiem."

## TO EVA.

OH, fair and stately maid, whose eyes  
Were kindled in the upper skies  
At the same torch that lighted mine ;  
For so I must interpret still  
Thy sweet dominion o'er my will,  
A sympathy divine.

Ah, let me blameless gaze upon  
Features that seem at heart my own ;  
Nor fear those watchful sentinels,  
Who charm the more their glance forbids.  
Chaste-glowing, underneath their lids,  
With fire that draws while it repels.

[J. G. WHITTIER.]

## BARBARA FRITCHIE.

UP from the meadows, rich with corn,  
Clear from the cool September morn,  
The clustered spires of Frederick stand,  
Green-walled by the hills of Maryland.

Round about them orchards sweep,  
Apple and peach tree fruited deep ;  
Fair as a garden of the Lord  
To the eyes of the famished rebel horde.

On that pleasant morn of the early fall,  
When Lee marched over the mountain  
wall,  
Over the mountains winding down,  
Horse and foot, into Frederick town,

Forty flags with their silver stars,  
Forty flags with their silver bars,  
Flapped in the morning wind : the sun  
Of noon looked down and saw not one.

Up rose old Barbara Fritchie then,  
Bowed with her fourscore years and ten,  
Bravest of all in Frederick town,  
She took up the flag the men hauled  
down ;

In her attic window the staff she set,  
To show that one heart was loyal yet.  
Up the street came the rebel tread,  
Stonewall Jackson riding ahead ;

Under his slouched hat, left and right,  
He glanced, the old flag met his sight.  
"Halt!"—the dust-brown ranks stood  
fast;  
"Fire!"—out blazed the rifle blast.

It shivered the window, pane and sash;  
It rent the banner with seam and gash,  
Quick, as it fell from the broken staff,  
Dame Barbara snatched the silken scarf;

She leaned far out on the window sill  
And shook it forth with a royal will.  
"Shoot, if you must, this old grey head,  
But spare your country's flag," she said.

A shade of sadness, a blush of shame,  
Over the face of the leader came;  
The noble nature within him stirred  
To life, at that woman's deed and word.

"Who touches a hair of yon grey head,  
Dies like a dog. March on!" he said.  
All day long through Frederick street  
Sound'd the tread of marching feet;

All day long the free flag tossed  
Over the heads of the rebel host;  
Ever its torn folds rose and fell  
On the loyal winds, that loved it well;

And through the hill-gaps sunset light  
Shone over it with a warm good-night.  
Barbara Fritchie's work is o'er,  
And the rebel rides on his raid no more.

Honour to her! and let a tear  
Fall, for her sake, on Stonewall's bier:  
Over Barbara Fritchie's grave,  
Flag of Freedom and Union, wave!

Peace, and order, and beauty draw  
Round thy symbol of light and law;  
And ever the stars above look down  
On thy stars below, in Frederick town!

### MAUD MÜLLER.

MAUD MÜLLER, on a summer's day,  
Raked the meadow sweet with hay.

Beneath her torn hat glowed the wealth  
Of simple beauty and rustic health.

Singing, she wrought, and her merry  
glee  
The mock-bird echoed from his tree.

But, when she glanced to the far-off  
town,  
White from its hill-slope looking down,

The sweet song died, and a vague unrest  
And a nameless longing filled her breast—

A wish, that she hardly dared to own,  
For something better than she had known.

The Judge rode slowly down the lane,  
Smoothing his horse's chestnut mane.

He drew his bridle in the shade  
Of the apple-trees, to greet the maid,

And ask a draught from the spring that  
flowed  
Through the meadows across the road.

She stooped where the cool spring bubbled  
up,  
And filled for him her small tin cup,

And blushed as she gave it, looking  
down  
On her feet so bare, and her tattered  
gown.

"Thanks!" said the Judge, "a sweeter  
draught  
From a fairer hand was never quaffed."

He spoke of the grass, and flowers, and  
trees,  
Of the singing birds and the humming  
bees;

Then talked of the haying, and wondered  
whether  
The cloud in the west would bring foul  
weather.

And Maud forgot her briar-torn gown;  
And her graceful ankles bare and brown;

And listened, while a pleased surprise  
Looked from her long-lashed hazel eyes.

At last, like one who for delay  
Seeks a vain excuse, he rode away.

Maud Müller looked and sighed : "Ah,  
me !

That I the Judge's bride might be !

"He would dress me up in silks so fine,  
And praise and toast me at his wine.

"My father should wear a broad-cloth  
coat ;

My brother should sail a painted boat.

"I'd dress my mother so grand and gay,  
And the baby should have a new toy each  
day.

"And I'd feed the hungry and clothe the  
poor, [door."  
And all should bless me who left our

The Judge looked back as he climbed the  
hill,  
And saw Maud Müller standing still.

"A form more fair, a face more sweet,  
Ne'er hath it been my lot to meet.

"And her modest answer and graceful  
air,  
Show her wise and good as she is fair.

"Would she were mine, and I to-day,  
Like her a harvester of hay :

"No doubtful balance of rights and  
wrongs,  
And weary lawyers with endless tongues,

"But low of cattle and song of birds,  
And health of quiet and loving words."

But he thought of his sisters, proud and  
cold,

And his mother, vain of her rank and  
gold.

So, closing his heart, the Judge rode on,  
And Maud was left in the field alone.

But the lawyers smiled that afternoon,  
When he hummed in court an old love-  
tune ;

And the young girl mused beside the  
well,  
Till the rain on the unraked clover fell.

He wedded a wife of richest dower,  
Who lived for fashion as he for power.

Yet oft, in his marble hearth's bright glow,  
He watched a picture come and go.

And sweet Maud Müller's hazel eyes  
Looked out in their innocent surprise.

Oft when the wine in his glass was red,  
He longed for the wayside well instead ;

And closed his eyes on his garnished  
rooms,  
To dream of meadows and clover blooms.

And the proud man sighed, with a secret  
pain :

"Ah, that I were free again !

"Free as when I rode that day,  
Where the barefoot maiden raked her  
hay."

She wedded a man unlearned and poor,  
And many children played round her  
door.

But care and sorrow, and child-birth  
pain,  
Left their traces on heart and brain.

And oft, when the summer sun shone  
hot [lot,  
On the new-mown hay in the meadow

And she heard the little spring-brook fall  
Over the roadside, through the wall,

In the shade of the apple-tree again  
She saw a rider draw his rein :

And, gazing down with timid grace,  
She felt his pleased eyes read her face.

Sometimes her narrow kitchen walls  
Stretched away into stately halls ;

The weary wheel to a spinnet turned,  
The tallow candle an astral burned,

And for him who sat by the chimney  
lug, [mug,  
Dozing and grumbling o'er pipe and

A manly form at her side she saw,  
And joy was duty, and love was law.

Then she took up her burden of life again,  
Saying only, "It might have been !"

Alas ! for Maiden, alas ! for Judge,  
For rich repiner and household drudge !

God pity them both ! and pity us all,  
Who vainly the dreams of youth recall.

For of all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these : "It might have  
been !"

Ah, well ! for us all some sweet hope  
lies  
Deeply buried from human eyes ;

And, in the hereafter, angels may  
Roll the stone from its grave away !

#### THE MORAL WARFARE.

WHEN Freedom, on her natal day,  
Within her war-rocked cradle lay,  
An iron race around her stood,  
Baptised her infant brow in blood ;  
And, through the storm which round her  
swept,  
Their constant ward and watching kept.

Then, where our quiet herds repose,  
The roar of baleful battle rose,  
And brethren of a common tongue  
To moral strife as tigers sprung ;  
And every gift on Freedom's shrine  
Was man for beast, and blood for wine !

Our fathers to their graves have gone ;  
Their strife is past—their triumph won ;

But sterner trials wait the race  
Which rise in their honoured place—  
A moral warfare of the crime  
And folly of an evil time.

So let it be. In God's own might  
We gird us for the coming fight.  
And, strong in Him whose cause is ours,  
In conflict with unholy powers,  
We grasp the weapons He has given,—  
The Light, and Truth, and Love of  
Heaven.

[WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.]

#### THE WESTERN WORLD.

LATE from this western shore, that  
morning chased  
The deep and ancient night, that threw  
its shroud  
O'er the green land of groves, the  
beautiful waste,  
Nurse of full streams, and lifter up of  
proud [the cloud.  
Sky-mingling mountains that o'erlook  
Erewhile, where yon gay spires their  
brightness rear,  
Trees waved, and the brown hunter's  
shouts were loud [deer  
Amid the forest ; and the bounding  
Fled at the glancing plume, and the gaunt  
wolf yelled near.

And where his willing waves yon  
bright blue bay  
Sends up, to kiss his decorated brim,  
And cradles, in his soft embrace, the  
gay  
Young group of grassy islands born of  
him,  
And, crowding nigh, or in the distance  
dim,  
Lifts the white throng of sails, that  
bear or bring  
The commerce of the world ;—with  
tawny limb,  
And belt and beads in sunlight  
glistening,  
The savage urged his skiff like wild bird  
on the wing.

Then, all his youthful paradise around,  
 And all the broad and boundless main-  
 land lay,  
 Cooled by the interminable wood, that  
 frowned  
 O'er mound and vale, where never  
 summer ray  
 Glanced, till the strong tornado broke  
 his way  
 Through the gray giants of the sylvan  
 wild ;  
 Yet many a sheltered glade, with  
 blossoms gay,  
 Beneath the showery sky and sunshine  
 mild,  
 Within the shaggy arms of that dark  
 forest smiled.

There stood the Indian hamlet, there  
 the lake  
 Spreads its blue sheet that flashed with  
 many an oar,  
 Where the brown otter plunged him  
 from the brake,  
 And the deer drank ;—as the light gale  
 flew o'er,  
 The twinkling maize-field rustled on  
 the shore ;  
 And while that spot, so wild and lone  
 and fair,  
 A look of glad and innocent beauty  
 wore, [fair,  
 And peace was on the earth and in the  
 The warrior lit the pile, and bound his  
 captive there :

Not unavenged—the foeman, from the  
 wood,  
 Beheld the deed, and when the mid-  
 night shade [blood ;  
 Was stillest, gorged his battle-axe with  
 All died—the wailing babe—the shriek-  
 ing maid—  
 And in the flood of light that scathed  
 the glade,  
 The roofs went down ; but deep the  
 silence grew,  
 When on the dewy woods the day-  
 beam played ;  
 No more the cabin smokes rose  
 wreathed and blue,  
 And ever, by their lake, lay moored the  
 light canoe.

Look now abroad—another race has  
 filled  
 These populous borders—wide the  
 wood recedes,  
 And towns shoot up, and fertile realms  
 are tilled ;  
 The land is full of harvests and green  
 meads ;  
 Streams numberless, that many a foun-  
 tain feeds,  
 Shine, disembowered, and give to sun  
 and breeze, [leads  
 Their virgin waters ; the full region  
 New colonies forth, that toward the  
 western seas  
 Spread, like a rapid flame among the  
 autumnal trees.

Here the free spirit of mankind at  
 length  
 Throws its last fetters off ; and who  
 shall place  
 A limit to the giant's unchained  
 strength,  
 Or curb his swiftness in the forward  
 race.  
 Far, like the comet's way through in-  
 finite space,  
 Stretches the long untraveller path of  
 light  
 Into the depths of ages : we may trace—  
 Afar, the brightening glory of its flight,  
 Till the receding rays are lost to human  
 sight.

#### TO A WATERFOWL.

WHITHER, midst falling dew,  
 While glow the heavens with the last  
 steps of day  
 Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou  
 pursue  
 Thy solitary way ?

Vainly the fowler's eye  
 Might mark thy distant flight to do thee  
 wrong,  
 As, darkly painted on the crimson sky,  
 Thy figure floats along.

Seek'st thou the plashy brink  
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,  
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink  
On the chafed ocean side ?

There is a Power, whose care  
Teaches thy way along that pathless  
coast,—  
The desert and illimitable air,—  
Lone wandering, but not lost.

All day thy wings have fanned  
At that far height, the cold thin atmo-  
sphere ;  
Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome  
land,  
Though the dark night is near.

And soon that toil shall end,  
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and  
rest,  
And scream among thy fellows ; reeds  
shall bend  
Soon o'er thy sheltered nest.

Thou'rt gone, the abyss of heaven  
Hath swallowed up thy form ; yet on my  
heart [given,  
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast  
And shall not soon depart.

He who, from zone to zone,  
Guides through the boundless sky thy  
certain flight,  
In the long way that I must tread alone,  
Will lead my steps aright.

#### THE CLOSE OF AUTUMN.

THE melancholy days are come, the  
saddest of the year,  
Of wailing winds and naked woods and  
meadows brown and sere.  
Heaped in the hollows of the grove the  
withered leaves lie dead,  
They rustle to the eddying gust and to the  
rabbit's tread.  
The robin and the wren are flown, and  
from the shrubs the jay,  
And from the wood top calls the crow,  
through all the gloomy day.

Where are the flowers, the fair young  
flowers, that lately sprung and stood,  
In brighter light and softer airs, a beau-  
teous sisterhood ?

Alas ! they all are in their graves—the  
gentle race of flowers  
Are lying in their lowly beds, with the  
fair and good of ours :  
The rain is falling where they lie—but  
the cold November rain  
Calls not from out the gloomy earth the  
lovely ones again.

The windflower and the violet, they  
perished long ago,  
And the brier-rose and the orchis died,  
amid the summer's glow ;  
But on the hill the golden rod, and the  
aster in the wood,  
And the yellow sunflower by the brook in  
autumn beauty stood,  
Till fell the frost from the clear cold  
heaven, as falls the plague on men,  
And the brightness of their smile was  
gone from upland, glade, and glen.

And now when comes the calm mild day  
—as still such days will come,  
To call the squirrel and the bee from out  
their winter home ;  
When the sound of dropping nuts is  
heard, though all the trees are still,  
And twinkle in the smoky light the  
waters of the rill,  
The south wind searches for the flowers  
whose fragrance late he bore,  
And sighs to find them in the wood and  
by the stream no more.

And then I think of one who in her  
youthful beauty died,  
The fair meek blossom that grew up and  
faded by my side.  
In the cold moist earth we laid her, when  
the forest cast the leaf,  
And we wept that one so lovely should  
have a lot so brief ;  
Yet not unmeet it was that one, like that  
young friend of ours,  
So gentle and so beautiful, should perish  
with the flowers.

## HYMN TO THE NORTH STAR.

THE sad and solemn night,  
Has yet her multitude of cheerful fires ;  
The glorious hosts of light  
Walk the dark hemisphere till sne  
tires :  
All through her silent watches, gliding  
slow,  
Her constellations come, and round the  
heavens, and go.

Day, too, hath many a star  
To grace his gorgeous reign, as bright as  
they :

Through the blue fields afar,  
Unseen they follow in his flaming way :  
Many a bright lingerer, as the eve grows  
dim,  
Tells what a radiant troop arose and set  
with him.

And thou dost see them rise,  
Star of the Pole ! and thou dost see them  
set.

Alone, in thy cold skies,  
Thou keep'st thy old unmoving station  
yet,  
Nor join'st the dances of that glittering  
train,  
Nor dipp'st thy virgin orb in the blue  
western main.

There, at morn's rosy birth,  
Thou lookest meekly through the kindling  
air,

And eve, that round the earth  
Chases the day, beholds thee watching  
there ;  
There noontide finds thee, and the hour  
that calls  
The shapes of polar flame to scale heaven's  
azure walls.

Alike, beneath thine eye,  
The deeds of darkness and of light are  
done ;

High towards the star-lit sky  
Towns blaze—the smoke of battle blots  
the sun—

The night-storm on a thousand hills is  
loud—

And the strong wind of day doth mingle  
sea and cloud.

On thy unaltering blaze  
The half-wrecked mariner, his compass  
lost,  
Fixes his steady gaze,  
And steers, undoubting, to the friendly  
coast ;  
And they who stray in perilous wastes, by  
night,  
Are glad when thou dost shine to guide  
their footsteps right.

And, therefore, bards of old,  
Sages, and hermits of the solemn wood,  
Did in thy beams behold  
A beauteous type of that unchanging  
good,  
That bright eternal beacon, by whose  
ray  
The voyager of time should shape his  
heedful way.

## AUTUMN WOODS.

ERE, in the northern gale,  
The summer tresses of the trees are gone,  
The woods of autumn, all around our  
vale,  
Have put their glory on.

The mountains that infold  
In their wide sweep, the coloured land-  
scape round,  
Seem groups of giant kings in purple and  
gold,  
That guard the enchanted ground.

I roam the woods that crown  
The upland, where the mingled splen-  
dours glow,  
Where the gay company of trees look  
down  
On the green fields below.

My steps are not alone  
In these bright walks ; the sweet south-  
west at play,  
Flies, rustling, where the painted leaves  
are strown  
Along the winding way.

And far in heaven, the while,  
 The sun, that sends that gaze to wander  
 here,  
 Pours out on the fair earth his quiet  
 smile,—  
 The sweetest of the year.

Where now the solemn shade,  
 Verdure and gloom where many branches  
 meet ;  
 So grateful, when the noon of summer  
 made  
 The valleys sick with heat ?

Let in through all the trees  
 Come the strange rays ; the forest depths  
 are bright ;  
 Their sunny-coloured foliage, in the  
 breeze,  
 Twinkles, like beams of light.

The rivulet, late unseen,  
 Where bickering through the shrubs its  
 waters run,  
 Shines with the image of its golden  
 screen,  
 And glimmerings of the sun.

But 'neath yon crimson tree,  
 Lover to listening maid might breathe  
 his flame,  
 Nor mark, within its roseate canopy,  
 Her blush of maiden shame.

Oh, Autumn ! why so soon  
 Depart the hues that make thy forests  
 glad ;  
 Thy gentle wind and thy fair sunny noon,  
 And leave thee wild and sad !

Ah, 'twere a lot too blest  
 For ever in thy coloured shades to stray,  
 Amidst the kisses of the soft south-west  
 To rove and dream for aye ;

And leave the vain low strife,  
 That makes men mad—the tug for  
 wealth and power,  
 The passions and the cares that wither  
 life,  
 And waste its little hour.

## AN INDIAN STORY.

I KNOW where the timid fawn abides  
 In the depths of the shaded dell,  
 Where the leaves are broad, and the  
 thickest hides,  
 With its many stems and its tangled sides,  
 From the eye of the hunter well.

I know where the young May violet grows,  
 In its lone and lowly nook,  
 On the mossy bank, where the larch tree  
 throws  
 Its broad dark boughs, in solemn repose,  
 Far over the silent brook.

And that timid fawn starts not with fear  
 When I steal to her secret bower,  
 And that young May violet to me is dear,  
 And I visit the silent streamlet near,  
 To look on the lovely flower.

Thus Maquon sings as he lightly walks  
 To the hunting-ground on the hills ;  
 'Tis a song of his maid of the woods and  
 rocks,  
 With her bright black eyes and long black  
 locks,  
 And voice like the music of rills.

He goes to the chase—but evil eyes  
 Are at watch in the thicker shades ;  
 For she was lovely that smiled on his  
 sighs,  
 And he bore, from a hundred lovers, his  
 prize,  
 The flower of the forest maids.

The boughs in the morning wind are  
 stirred,  
 And the woods their song renew,  
 With the early carol of many a bird,  
 And the quickened tune of the streamlet  
 heard  
 Where the hazels trickle with dew.

And Maquon has promised his dark-haired  
 maid,  
 Ere eve shall redden the sky,  
 A good red deer from the forest shade,  
 That bounds with the herd through grove  
 and glade,  
 At her cabin door shall lie.



The hollow woods, in the setting sun,  
 Ring shrill with the fire-bird's lay;  
 And Maquon's sylvan labours are done,  
 And his shafts are spent, but the spoil  
     they won  
 He bears on his homeward way.

He stops near his bower—his eye per-  
     ceives  
 Strange traces along the ground—  
 At once, to the earth his burden he heaves,  
 He breaks through the veil of boughs and  
     leaves,  
 And gains its door with a bound.

But the vines are torn on its walls that  
     leant,  
 And all from the young shrubs there  
 By struggling hands have the leaves been  
     rent,  
 And there hangs on the sassafras broken  
     and bent  
 One tress of the well-known hair.

But where is she who at this calm hour  
     Ever watched his coming to see?  
 She is not at the door, nor yet in the  
     bower;  
 He calls, but he only hears on the flower  
     The hum of the laden bee.

It is not a time for idle grief,  
 Nor a time for tears to flow;  
 The horror that freezes his limbs is brief—  
 He grasps his war axe and bow, and a  
     sheaf  
 Of darts made sharp for the foe.

And he looks for the print of the ruffian's  
     feet,  
 Where he bore the maiden away;  
 And he darts on the fatal path more fleet  
 Than the blast that hurries the vapour  
     and sleet  
 O'er the wild November day.

'Twas early summer when Maquon's bride  
     Was stolen away from his door;  
 But at length the maples in crimson are  
     died,  
 And the grape is black on the cabin side,—  
 And she smiles at his hearth once more.

But far in a pine grove, dark and cold,  
     Where the yellow leaf falls not,  
 Nor the autumn shines in scarlet and gold,  
 There lies a hillock of fresh dark mould,  
     In the deepest gloom of the spot.

And the Indian girls, that pass that way,  
     Point out the ravisher's grave;  
 "And how soon to the bower she loved,"  
     they say,  
 "Returned the maid that was borne  
     away  
 From Maquon, the fond and the brave."

### THANATOPSIS.

To him who in the love of Nature holds  
 Communion with her visible forms, she  
     speaks

A various language; for his gayer hours  
 She has a voice of gladness, and a smile  
 And eloquence of beauty, and she glides  
 Into his dark musings with a mild  
 And gentle sympathy that steals away  
 Their sharpness ere he is aware. When  
     thoughts

Of the last bitter hour come like a blight  
 Over thy spirit, and sad images  
 Of the stern agony, and shroud, and pall,  
 And breathless darkness, and the narrow  
     house,  
 Make thee to shudder and grow sick at  
     heart;—  
 Go forth unto the open sky, and list  
 To Nature's teachings, while from all  
     around—

Earth and her waters, and the depths of  
     air—

Comes a still voice—Yet a few days, and  
     thee

The all-beholding sun shall see no more  
 In all his course; nor yet in the cold  
     ground,

Where thy pale form was laid with many  
     tears,

Nor in the embrace of ocean shall exist  
 Thy image. Earth, that nourished thee,  
     shall claim,

Thy growth, to be resolved to earth again;  
 And, lost each human trace, surrendering  
     up

Thine individual being, shalt thou go

To mix for ever with the elements ;  
 To be a brother to the insensible rock,  
 And to the sluggish clod which the rude  
 swain  
 Turns with his share and treads upon.  
 The oak  
 Shall send his roots abroad, and pierce  
 thy mould.  
 Yet not to thy eternal resting-place  
 Shalt thou retire alone—nor couldst thou  
 wish  
 Couch more magnificent. Thou shalt lie  
 down  
 With patriarchs of the infant world—with  
 kings  
 The powerful of the earth—the wise, the  
 good,  
 Fair forms, and hoary seers of ages past,  
 All in one mighty sepulchre.—The hills  
 Rock-ribbed and ancient as the sun,—the  
 vales  
 Stretching in pensive quietness between ;—  
 The venerable woods ; rivers that move  
 In majesty, and the complaining brooks  
 That make the meadows green ; and  
 poured around all,  
 Old ocean's gray and melancholy waste,—  
 Are but the solemn decorations all  
 Of the great tomb of man. The golden  
 sun,  
 The planets, all the infinite host of heaven,  
 Are shining on the sad abodes of death  
 Through the still lapse of ages. All that  
 tread  
 The globe are but a handful to the tribes  
 That slumber in its bosom.—Take the  
 wings  
 Of morning, and the Barcan desert pierce,  
 Or lose thyself in the continuous woods  
 Where rolls the Oregon, and hears no  
 sound,  
 Save his own dashing—yet—the dead are  
 there,  
 And millions in those solitudes, since first  
 The flight of years began, have laid them  
 down  
 In their last sleep—the dead reign there  
 alone.—  
 So shalt thou rest—and what if thou shalt  
 fall  
 Unnoticed by the living—and no friend  
 Take note of thy departure ? All that  
 breathe

Will share thy destiny. The gay will  
 laugh  
 When thou art gone, the solemn brood of  
 care  
 Plod on, and each one as before will chase  
 His favourite phantom ; yet all these shall  
 leave  
 Their mirth and their employments, and  
 shall come  
 And make their bed with thee. As the  
 long train  
 Of ages glide away, the sons of men,  
 The youth in life's green spring, and he  
 who goes [maid,  
 In the full strength of years, matron and  
 The bowed with age, the infant in the  
 smiles  
 And beauty of its innocent age cut off,—  
 Shall one by one be gathered to thy side  
 By those who in their turn shall follow  
 them. [join  
 So live, that when thy summons comes to  
 The innumerable caravan that moves  
 To the pale realms of shade, where each  
 shall take  
 His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
 Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at  
 night,  
 Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained  
 and soothed [grave  
 By an unfaltering trust, approach thy  
 Like one who wraps the drapery of his  
 couch  
 About him, and lies down to pleasant  
 dreams.

~~~~~  
 OH, MOTHER OF A MIGHTY
 RACE.

Oh, mother of a mighty race,
 Yet lovely in thy youthful grace !
 The elder dames, thy haughty peers,
 Admire and hate thy blooming years ;
 With words of shame
 And taunts of scorn they join thy name.
 For on thy cheeks the glow is spread
 That tints the morning hills with red ;
 Thy step—the wild deer's rustling feet
 Within thy woods, are not more fleet ;
 Thy hopeful eye
 Is bright as thine own sunny sky.

Ay, let them rail—those haughty ones—
While safe thou dwellest with thy sons.
They do not know how loved thou art—
How many a fond and fearless heart
Would rise to throw

Its life between thee and the foe !

They know not, in their hate and pride,
What virtues with thy children bide ;
How true, how good, thy graceful maids
Make bright, like flowers, the valley
shades :

What generous men
Spring, like thine oaks, by hill and glen :

What cordial welcomes greet the guest
By the lone rivers of the west ;
How faith is kept and truth revered,
And man is loved, and God is feared,
In woodland homes,
And where the solemn ocean foams !

There's freedom at thy gates, and rest
For earth's down-trodden and oppressed,
A shelter for the hunted head,
For the starved labourer toil and bread ;
Power, at thy bounds,
Stops and calls back his baffled hounds.

Oh, fair young mother ! on thy brow
Shall sit a nobler grace than now.
Deep in the brightness of thy skies
The thronging years in glory rise,
And, as they fleet,
Drop strength and riches at thy feet.

Thine eye, with every coming hour
Shall brighten, and thy form shall tower ;
And when thy sisters, elder born,
Would brand thy name with words of
scorn
Before thine eye,
Upon their lips the taunt shall die !

OH, FAIREST OF THE RURAL MAIDS.

Oh, fairest of the rural maids !
Thy birth was in the forest shades ;
Green boughs, and glimpses of the sky,
Were all that met thy infant eye.

Thy sports, thy wanderings, when a child
Were ever in the sylvan wild ;
And all the beauty of the place
Is in thy heart and on thy face :

The twilight of the trees and rocks
Is in the light shade of thy locks ;
Thy step is as the wind that weaves
Its playful way among the leaves.

Thine eyes are springs, in whose serene
And silent waters heaven is seen ;
Their lashes are the herbs that look
On their young figures in the brook.

The forest depths, by foot unpressed,
Are not more sinless than thy breast ;
The holy peace that fills the air
Of those calm solitudes is there.

[NATHANIEL P. WILLIS.]

THE SOLDIER'S WIDOW.

Woe ! for my vine-clad home !
That it should ever be so dark to me,
With its bright threshold, and its whis-
pering tree !
That I should ever come,
Fearing the lonely echo of a tread,
Beneath the roof-tree of my glorious dead

Lead on ! my orphan boy !
Thy home is not so desolate to thee,
And the low shiver in the linden tree
May bring to thee a joy ;
But, oh ! how dark is the bright home
before thee,
To her who with a joyous spirit bore thee !

Lead on ! for thou art now
My sole remaining helper. God hath
spoken,
And the strong heart I leaned upon is
broken ;
And I have seen his brow,
The forehead of my upright one, and just,
Trod by the hoof of battle to the dust.

He will not meet thee there
Who blessed thee at the eventide, my son !

And when the shadows of the night steal
on,

He will not call to prayer.
The lips that melted, giving thee to God,
Are in the icy keeping of the sod!

Ay, my own boy! thy sire
Is with the sleepers of the valley cast,
And the proud glory of my life hath
past,

With his high glance of fire.
Woe! that the linden and the vine should
bloom,
And a just man be gathered to the tomb!

BETTER MOMENTS.

My Mother's voice! how often creeps

Its cadence on my lonely hours!
Like healing sent on wings of sleep,
Or dew to the unconscious flowers.

I can forget her melting prayer
While leaping pulses madly fly,
But in the still unbroken air

Her gentle tone comes stealing by,
And years, and sin, and manhood flee,
And leave me at my mother's knee.

The book of nature, and the print
Of beauty on the whispering sea,
Give eye to me some lineament
Of what I have been taught to be.

My heart is harder, and perhaps
My manliness hath drunk up tears,
And there's a mildew in the lapse

Of a few miserable years—
But nature's book is even yet
With all my mother's lessons writ.
I have been out at eventide

Beneath a moonlight sky of spring,
When earth was garnished like a bride,
And night had on her silver wing—
When bursting leaves and diamond grass,
And waters leaping to the light,
And all that makes the pulses pass
With wilder fleetness, thronged the
night—

When all was beauty—then have I,
With friends on whom my love is flung
Like myrrh on winds of Araby,
Gazed up where evening's lamp is hung.

And when the beautiful spirit there
Flung over me its golden chain,
My mother's voice came on the air
Like the light-dropping of the rain,
And resting on some silver star

The spirit of a bended knee,
I've pouled her low and fervent prayer
That our eternity might be
To rise in heaven like stars at night,
And tread a living path of light!

I have been on the dewy hills,
When night was stealing from the
dawn,

And mist was on the waking rills,
And tints were delicately drawn
In the gray East—when birds were waking
With a low murmur in the trees,

And melody by fits was breaking
Upon the whisper of the breeze,
And this when I was forth, perchance
As a worn reveller from the dance—

And when the sun sprang gloriously
And freely up, and hill and river
Were catching upon wave and tree

The arrows from his subtle quiver—
I say, a voice has thrilled me then,
Heard on the still and rushing light,

Or, creeping from the silent glen
Like words from the departing night,
Hath stricken me, and I have pressed
On the wet grass my fevered brow,

And pouring forth the earliest
First prayer, with which I learned to bow,
Have felt my mother's spirit rush
Upon me as in by-past years,

And yielding to the blessed gush
Of my ungovernable tears,
Have risen up—the gay, the wild—
As humble as a very child.

HAGAR IN THE WILDERNESS.

THE morning broke. Light stole upon
the clouds
With a strange beauty. Earth received
again

Is garment of a thousand dyes; and
leaves

And delicate blossoms, and the painted
flowers,

And every thing that bendeth to the
dew

And stirreth with the daylight, lifted up
Its beauty to the breath of that sweet
morn.

All things are dark to sorrow ; and the
light,
And loveliness, and fragrant air, were
sad
To the dejected Hagar. The moist
earth

Was pouring odours from its spicy pores,
And the young birds were singing, as if
life

Were a new thing to them ; but, O ! it
came

Upon her heart like discord, and she
felt

How cruelly it tries a broken heart
To see a mirth in anything it loves.

She stood at Abraham's tent. Her lips
were pressed

Till the blood started ; and the wander-
ing veins

Of her transparent forehead were swelled
out,

As if her pride would burst them. Her
dark eye

Was clear and tearless, and the light of
heaven,

Which made its language legible, shot
back

From her long lashes, as it had been
flame.

Her noble boy stood by her, with his
hand

Clasped in her own, and his round deli-
cate feet,

Scarce trained to balance on the tented
floor,

Sandalled for journeying. He had looked
up

Into his mother's face, until he caught
The spirit there, and his young heart was
swelling

Beneath his dimpled bosom, and his
form

Straightened up proudly in his tiny
wrath,

As if his light proportions would have
swelled,

Had they but matched his spirit, to the
man.

Why bends the patriarch as he cometh
now

Upon his staff so wearily ? His beard
Is low upon his breast, and on his high
brow,

So written with the converse of his God,
Beareth the swollen vein of agony.

His lip is quivering, and his wonted step
Of vigour is not there ; and though the
morn

Is passing fair and beautiful, he breathes
Its freshness as it were a pestilence.

O, man may bear with suffering : his
heart

Is a strong thing, and godlike in the
grasp

Of pain, that wrings mortality ; but tear
One chord affection clings to, part one
tie

That binds him to a woman's delicate
love,

And his great spirit yieldeth like a reed.

He gave to her the water and the
bread,

But spoke no word, and trusted not him-
self

To look upon her face, but laid his hand
In silent blessing on the fair-haired boy,

And left her to her lot of loneliness.

Should Hagar weep ? May slighted
woman urn,

And as a vine the oak has shaken off,
Bend lightly to her leaning trust again ?

O, no ! by all her loveliness, by all
That makes life poetry and beauty, no !

Make her a slave ; steal from her rosy
check

By needless jealousies ; let the last star
Leave her a watcher by your couch of
pain ;

Wrong her by petulance, suspicion, all
That makes her cup a bitterness,—yet
give

One evidence of love, and earth has not
An emblem of devotedness like hers.

But, O ! estrange her once—it boots not
how—

By wrong or silence, anything that tells
A change has come upon your tender-
ness—

And there is not a high thing out of
heaven

Her pride o'ermastereth not.

She went her way with a strong step
and slow ;

Her pressed lip arched, and her clear eye
 undimmed,
 As it had been a diamond, and her
 form
 Borne proudly up, as if her heart breathed
 through.
 Her child kept on in silence, though she
 pressed
 His hand till it was pained : for he had
 caught,
 As I have said, her spirit, and the seed
 Of a stern nation had been breathed
 upon.
 The morning passed, and Asia's sun
 rode up
 In the clear heaven, and every beam was
 heat.
 The cattle of the hills were in the shade,
 And the bright plumage of the Orient
 lay
 On beating bosoms in her spicy trees.
 It was an hour of rest ; but Hagar found
 No shelter in the wilderness, and on
 She kept her weary way, until the boy
 flung down his head, and opened his
 parched lips
 For water ; but she could not give it
 him.
 She laid him down beneath the sultry
 sky,—
 For it was better than the close, hot
 breath
 Of the thick pines,—and tried to com-
 fort him ;
 But he was sore athirst, and his blue
 eyes
 Were dim and bloodshot, and he could
 not know
 Why God denied him water in the wild.
 She sat a little longer, and he grew
 Ghastly and faint, as if he would have
 died.
 It was too much for her. She lifted
 him,
 And bore him further on, and laid his
 head
 Beneath the shadow of a desert shrub ;
 And, shrouding up her face, she went
 away,
 And sat to watch where he could see her
 not,
 Till he should die ; and, watching him,
 she mourned :

“God stay thee in thine agony, my
 boy !
 I cannot see thee die ; I cannot brook
 Upon thy brow to look,
 And see death settle on my cradle
 joy.
 How have I drunk the light of thy blue
 eye !
 And could I see thee die ?

“I did not dream of this when thou wert
 straying,
 Like an unbound gazelle, among the
 flowers ;
 Or wearing rosy hours,
 By the rich gush of water-sources playing,
 Then sinking weary to thy smiling
 sleep,
 So beautiful and deep.

“O, o ! and when I watched by thee the
 while,
 And saw thy bright lip curling in thy
 dream,
 And thought of the dark stream
 In my own land of Egypt, the far Nile,
 How prayed I that my father's land
 might be
 An heritage for thee !

“And now the grave for its cold brea-
 hath won thee,
 And thy white, delicate limbs the earth
 will press,
 And, O ! my last caress
 Must feel thee cold, for a chill hand is on
 thee.
 How can I leave my boy, so pillowed
 there
 Upon his clustering hair !”

She stood beside the well her God had
 given
 To gush in that deep wilderness, and
 bathed
 The forehead of her child until he
 laughed
 In his reviving happiness, and lisped
 His infant thought of gladness at the
 sight
 Of the cool plashing of his mother's
 hand.

[J. R. LOWELL.]

TO THE DANDELION.

DEAR common flower, that growest
beside the way, [gold,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless
First pledge of blithesome May,
Which children pluck, and, full of pride,
uphold, [they
High-hearted buccaneers, o'erjoyed that
An Eldorado in the grass have found,
Which not the rich earth's ample
round
May match in wealth, -thou art more
dear to me
Than all the prouder summer-blooms
may be.

Gold such as thine ne'er drew the
Spanish prow
Through the primeval hush of Indian
seas,

Nor wrinkled the lean brow
Of age, to rob the lover's heart of ease;
'Tis the spring's largess, which she
scatters now

To rich and poor alike, with lavish hand,
Though most hearts never understand
To take it at God's value, but pass by
The offered wealth with unrewarded
eye.

Thou art my tropics and mine Italy;
To look at thee unlocks a warmer clime;
The eyes thou givest me
Are in the heart, and heed not space or
time:

Not in mid June the golden-cuirassed
bee
Feels a more summer-like, warm ravish-
ment

In the white lily's breezy tent,
His conquered Sybaris, than I, when
first

From the dark green thy yellow circles
burst.

Then think I of deep shadows on the
grass,—
Of meadows where in sun the cattle graze,
Where, as the breezes pass,
The gleaming rushes lean a thousand
ways,—

Of leaves that slumber in a cloudy mass,
Or whiten in the wind,—of waters blue

That from the distance sparkle through
Some woodland gap,—and of a sky
above,
Where one white cloud like a stray
lamb doth move.

My childhood's earliest thoughts are
linked with thee; [song,
The sight of thee calls back the robin's
Who, from the dark old tree
Beside the door, sang clearly all day
long,
And I, secure in childish piety,
Listened as if I heard an angel sing
With news from heaven, which he did
bring

Fresh every day to my untainted ears,
When birds and flowers and I were
happy peers.

How like a prodigal doth nature seem,
When thou, for all thy gold, so common
art!

Thou teachest me to deem
More sacredly of every human heart,
Since each reflects in joy its scanty
gleam

Of heaven, and could some wondrous
secret show,

Did we but pay the love we owe,
And with a child's undoubting wisdom
look

On all these living pages of God's
book.

SHE CAME AND WENT.

As a twig trembles which a bird
Lights on to sing, then leaves unbent,
So is my memory thrilled and stirred;—
I only know she came and went.

As clasps some lake, by gusts unruven,
The blue dome's measureless content,
So my soul held that moment's heaven;—
I only know she came and went.

As, at one bound, our swift spring heaps
The orchards full of bloom and scent,
So clove her May my wintry sleeps;—
I only know she came and went.

An angel stood and met my gaze,
Through the low doorway of my tent ;
The tent is struck, the vision stays ;—
I only know she came and went.

O, when the room grows slowly dim,
And life's last oil is nearly spent,
One gush of light these eyes will brim,
Only to think she came and went.

THE CHANGELING.

I HAD a little daughter,
And she was given to me
To lead me gently backward
To the Heavenly Father's knee,
That I, by the force of nature,
Might in some dim wise divine
The depth of His infinite patience
To this wayward soul of mine.

I know not how others saw her,
But to me she was wholly fair,
And the light of the heaven she came
from

Still lingered and gleamed in her hair ;
For it was as wavy and golden,
And as many changes took,
As the shadows of sun-gilt ripples
On the yellow bed of a brook.

To what can I liken her smiling
Upon me, her kneeling lover, [kiss,
How it leaped from her lips to her eye-
And dimpled her wholly over,
Till her outstretched hands smiled also,
And I almost seemed to see
The very heart of her mother
Sending sun through her veins to me !

She had been with us scarce a twelve-
month,

And it hardly seemed a day,
When a troop of wandering angels
Stole my little daughter away ;
Or perhaps those heavenly Zingali
But loosed the hampering strings
And when they had opened her cage-
door,

My little bird used her wings.

But they left in her stead a changeling,
A little angel child,
That seems like her bud in full blossom,
And smiles as she never smiled :

When I wake in the morning, I see it
Where she always used to lie,
And I feel as weak as a violet
Alone 'neath the awful sky ;
As weak, yet as trustful also ;
For the whole year long I see
All the wonders of faithful Nature
Still worked for the love of me ;
Winds wander, and dews drip earth-
ward,

Rain falls, suns rise and set,
Earth whirls, and all but to prosper
A poor little violet.

This child is not mine as the first was,
I cannot sing it to rest,
I cannot lift it up fatherly
And bless it upon my breast ;
Yet it lies in my little one's cradle
And sits in my little one's chair,
And the light of the heaven she's gone to
Transfigures its golden hair.

THE STREET.

THEY pass me by like shadows, crowds
on crowds, [fro
Dim ghosts of men, that hover to and
Hugging their bodies round them, like
thin shrouds [ago:
Wherein their souls were buried long
They trampled on their youth, and faith,
and love,
They cast their hope of human-kind
away, [strove,
With Heaven's clear messages they madly
And conquered,—and their spirits turned
to clay : [their grave,
Lo ! how they wander round the world,
Whose ever-gaping maw by such is fed,
Gibbering at living men, and idly rave,
"We, only, truly live, but ye are
dead." [trace
Alas ! poor fools, the anointed eye may
A dead soul's epitaph in every face !

[JOSEPH RODMAN DRAKE. 1795—1820.]

THE AMERICAN FLAG.

WHEN Freedom from her mountain height
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night
And set the stars of glory there.

She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldrick of the skies ;
And striped its pure, celestial white,
With streakings of the morning light.
Then from his mansion in the sun
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land.

Majestic monarch of the clouds,
Who rear'st aloft thy regal form,
To hear the tempest trummings loud,
And see the lightning lances driven,
Where strive the warriors of the storm,
And rolls the thunder-drum of heaven ;
Child of the sun ! to thee 'tis given
To guard the banner of the free,
To hover in the sulphur smoke,
To ward away the battle-stroke
And bid its blendings shine afar,
The harbingers of Victory !

Flag of the brave ! thy folds shall fly,
The sign of hope and triumph high !
When speaks the signal trumpet tone,
And the long line comes gleaming on,—
Ere yet the life-blood, warm and wet,
Has dimmed the glistening bayonet,—
Each soldier eye shall brightly turn
To where thy sky-born glories burn ;
And as his springing steps advance,
Catch war and vengeance from the glance.
And when the cannon-mouthings loud
Heave in wild wreaths the battle-shroud,
And gory sabres rise and fall
Like shoots of flame on midnight's pall,—
Then shall thy meteor glances glow,
And cowering foes shall sink beneath
Each gallant arm that strikes below
That lovely messenger of death.

Flag of the seas ! on ocean wave
Thy stars shall glitter o'er the brave.
When death, careering on the gale,
Sweeps darkly round the bellied sail,
And frightened waves rush wildly back
Before the broadside's reeling rack,
Each dying wanderer of the sea
Shall look at once to heaven and thee,
And smile to see thy splendours fly
In triumph o'er his closing eye.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home !
By angel hands to valour given,
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet !
Where breathes the foe that falls before
us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner floating o'er us.

[OLIVER W. HOLMES.]

L'INCONNUE.

Is thy name Mary, maiden fair ?
Such should, methinks, its music be,
The sweetest name that mortals bear,
Were best befitting thee ;
And she to whom it once was given,
Was half of earth and half of heaven.

I hear thy voice, I see thy smile,
I look upon thy folded hair ;
Ah ! while we dream not they beguile,
Our hearts are in the snare ;
And she, who chains a wild bird's wing,
Must start not if her captive sing.

So, lady, take the leaf that falls,
To all but thee unseen, unknown ;
When evening shades thy silent walls,
Then read it all alone ;
In stillness read, in darkness seal,
Forget, despise, but not reveal !

[PARK BENJAMIN. DIED 1864.]

HOW CHEERY ARE THE MARINERS !

How cheery are the mariners—
Those lovers of the sea !
Their hearts are like its yesty waves,
As bounding and as free.
They whistle when the storm-bird wheels
In circles round the mast ;
And sing when deep in foam the ship
Ploughs onward to the blast.

What care the mariners for gales ?
There's music in their roar,
When wide the berth along the lee,
And leagues of room before.

Let billows toss to mountain heights,
Or sink to chasms low,
The vessel stout will ride it out,
Nor reel beneath the blow.

With streamers down and canvas furled,
The gallant hull will float
Securely, as on inland lake
A silken-tasselled boat ;
And sound asleep some mariners,
And some with watchful eyes,
Will fearless be of dangers dark
That roll along the skies.

God keep those cheery mariners !
And temper all the gales
That sweep against the rocky coast
To their storm-shattered sails ;
And men on shore will bless the ship
That could so guided be,
Safe in the hollow of His hand,
To brave the mighty sea !

~~~~~  
[WILLIS G. CLARK.]

#### A REMEMBRANCE.

I SEE thee still ! thou art not dead,  
Though dust is mingling with thy form ;  
The broken sunbeam hath not shed  
The final rainbow on the storm :  
In visions of the midnight deep,  
Thine accents through my bosom thrill,  
Till joy's fond impulse bids me weep,—  
For, rapt in thought, I see thee still !

I see thee still,—that cheek of rose,—  
Those lips, with dewy fragrance wet,  
That forehead in serene repose.—  
Those soul-lit eyes—I see them yet !  
Sweet seraph ! sure thou art not dead,—  
Thou gracest still this earthly sphere,  
An influence still is round me shed  
Like thine,—and yet thou art not here !

Farewell, beloved ! To mortal sight,  
Thy vermeil cheek no more may  
bloom ;

No more thy smiles inspire delight,  
For thou art garnered in the tomb.  
Rich harvest for that ruthless power  
Which hath no bound to mar his will :  
Yet, as in hope's unclouded hour,  
Throned in my heart, I see thee still.

[JAMES ALDRICH.]

#### A DEATH-BED.

HER suffering ended with the day,  
Yet lived she at its close,  
And breathed that long, long night  
away,  
In statue-like repose.

But when the sun, in all his state,  
Illumed the eastern skies,  
She passed through Glory's morning-  
gate,  
And walked in Paradise !

~~~~~  
[EPES SARGENT.]

THE DAYS THAT ARE PAST.

WE will not deplore them, the days that
are past ;
The gloom of misfortune is over them
cast ;
They are lengthened by sorrow and sul-
lied by care ;
Their griefs were too many, their joys
were too rare ;
Yet now that their shadows are on us no
more,
Let us welcome the prospect that bright-
ens before !

We have cherished fair hopes, we have
plotted brave schemes,
We have lived till we find them illusive
as dreams ;
Wealth has melted like snow that is
grasped in the hand,
And the steps we have climbed have de-
parted like sand ;
Yet shall we despond while of health un-
bereft,
And honour, bright honour, and freedom
are left ?

O ! shall we despond, while the pages
of time
Yet open before us their records sublime !
While, ennobled by treasures more pre-
cious than gold,
We can walk with the martyrs and heroes
of old ;

While humanity whispers such truths in
the ear,
As it softens the heart like sweet music to
hear?

O! shall we despond while, with visions
still free,

We can gaze on the sky, and the earth,
and the sea;

While the sunshine can waken a burst of
delight,

And the stars are a joy and a glory by
[night :
While each harmony, running through
nature, can raise

In our spirits the impulse of gladness and
praise?

O! let us no longer, then, vainly lament
Over scenes that are faded and days that
are spent :

But, by faith unforsaken, unawed by mis-
chance,

On hope's waving banner still fixed be
our glance;

And, should fortune prove cruel and false
to the last,

Let us look to the future, and not to the
past!

[BAYARD TAYLOR.]

MOAN, YE WILD WINDS.

MOAN, ye wild winds! around the pane,
And fall, thou drear December rain!
Fill with your gusts the sullen day,
Tear the last clinging leaves away!
Reckless as yonder naked tree,
No blast of yours can trouble me.

Give me your chill and wild embrace,
And pour your baptism on my face;
Sound in mine ears the airy moan
That sweeps in desolate monotone,
Where on the unsheltered hill-top beat
The marches of your homeless feet!

Moan on, ye winds! and pour, thou rain!
Your stormy sobs and tears are vain,
If shed for her, whose fading eyes
Will open soon on Paradise:
The eye of Heaven shall blinded be,
Or ere ye cease, if shed for me

[R. H. STODDARD.]

THE SHADOW OF THE HAND.

You were very charming, madam,
In your silks and satins fine;
And you made your lovers drunken,
But it was not with your wine!
There were court gallants in dozens,
There were princes of the land,
And they would have perished for you,
As they knelt and kissed your hand—
For they saw no stain upon it,
It was such a snowy hand!

But for me—I knew you better,
And, while you were flaunting there,
I remembered some one lying,
With the blood on his white hair!
He was pleading for you, madam,
Where the shriven spirits stand;
But the Book of Life was darkened
By the Shadow of a Hand!
It was tracing your perdition,
For the blood upon your hand!

[WASHINGTON ALLSTON.]

AMERICA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

ALL hail! thou noble land,
Our fathers' native soil!
O stretch thy mighty hand,
Gigantic grown by toil,
O'er the vast Atlantic wave to our shore,
For thou, with magic might,
Canst reach to where the light
Of Phœbus travels bright
The world o'er.

The genius of our clime,
From his pine-embattled steep,
Shall hail the great sublime;
While the Tritons of the deep
With their conchs the kindred league
shall proclaim,
Then let the world combine—
O'er the main our naval line,
Like the milky-way shall shine,
Bright in fame!

Though ages long have passed
 Since our fathers left their home,
 Their pilot in the blast.
 O'er untravell'd seas to roam,—
 Yet lives the blood of England in our
 veins !
 And shall we not proclaim
 That blood of honest fame,
 Which no tyranny can tame
 By its chains ?

While the language free and bold
 Which the bard of Avon sung,
 In which our Milton told
 How the vault of heaven rung,
 When Satan, blasted, fell with his host ;
 While this, with reverence meet,
 Ten thousand echoes greet,
 From rock to rock repeat
 Round our coast ;

While the manners, while the arts,
 That mould a nation's soul,
 Still cling around our hearts,
 Between let ocean roll,
 Our joint communion breaking with the
 sun :
 Yet, still, from either beach,
 The voice of blood shall reach
 More audible than speech,
 " We are one ! "

~~~~~  
 [SAMUEL WOODWORTH.]

### THE BUCKET.

How dear to this heart are the scenes of  
 my childhood,  
 When fond recollection presents them  
 to view !  
 The orchard, the meadow, the deep-  
 tangled wildwood,  
 And every loved spot which my infancy  
 knew !  
 The wide-spreading pond, and the mill  
 that stood by it,  
 The bridge, and the rock where the  
 cataract fell,  
 The cot of my father, the dairy house  
 nigh it,  
 And e'en the rude bucket that hung in  
 the well—

The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound  
 bucket,  
 The moss-covered bucket which hung in  
 the well.

That moss-covered vessel I hailed \* as a  
 treasure,  
 For often at noon, when returned from  
 the field, [sure,  
 I found it the source of an exquisite plea-  
 The purest and sweetest that nature can  
 yield.

How ardent I seized it, with hands that  
 were glowing,  
 And quick to the white-pebbled bottom  
 it fell ;

Then soon, with the emblem of truth  
 overflowing,  
 And dripping with coolness, it rose  
 from the well—

The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound  
 bucket,  
 The moss-covered bucket, arose from the  
 well.

How sweet from the green mossy brim to  
 receive it, [lips !  
 As poised on the curb it inclined to my  
 Not a full blushing goblet could tempt  
 me to leave it,  
 The brightest that beauty or revelry  
 sips.

And now, far removed from the loved  
 habitation,  
 The tear of regret will intrusively  
 swell, [tion,  
 As fancy reverts to my father's planta-  
 And sighs for the bucket that hangs in  
 the well—

The old oaken bucket, the iron-bound  
 bucket,  
 The moss-covered bucket that hangs in  
 the well !

~~~~~  
 [RICHARD HENRY WILDE.]

MY LIFE IS LIKE THE SUMMER ROSE.

My life is like the summer rose
 That opens to the morning sky,
 But ere the shades of evening close.
 Is scattered on the ground—to die

Yet on the rose's humble bed
The sweetest dews of night are shed,
As if she wept the waste to see—
But none shall weep a tear for me !

My life is like the autumn leaf,
That trembles in the moon's pale ray,
Its hold is frail—its date is brief,
Restless—and soon to pass away !
Yet, ere that leaf shall fall and fade,
The parent tree will mourn its shade,
The winds bewail the leafless tree,
But none shall breathe a sigh for me !

My life is like the prints which feet
Have left on Tampa's desert strand ;
Soon as the rising tide shall beat,
All trace will vanish from the sand ;
Yet, as if grieving to efface
All vestige of the human race,
On that lone shore loud moans the sea,
But none, alas ! shall mourn for me !

[GRENVILLE MELLEN.]

ENGLISH SCENERY.

THE woods and vales of England:—is
there not
A magic and a marvel in their names ?
Is there not music in the memory
Of their old glory ?—is there not a sound,
As of some watchword, that recalls at
night
All that gave light and wonder to the
day ?
In these soft words, that breathe of love-
liness,
And summon to the spirit scenes that rose
Rich on its raptured vision, as the eye
Hung like a tranced thing above the page
That genius had made golden with its
glow—
The page of noble story—of high towers,
And castled halls, envista'd like the line
Of heroes and great hearts, that centuries
Had laid before their hearths in dim
array—
Of lake and lawn, and gray and cloudy
tree,
That rocked with bannered foliage to the
storm
Above the walls it shadowed, and whose
leaves,

Rustling in gathered music to the winds,
Seemed voiced as with the sound of many
seas !

The wood and vales of England ! O,
the founts,
The living founts of memory ! how they
break

And gush upon my stirred heart as I
gaze !

I hear the shout of reapers, the far
low

Of herds upon the banks, the distant
bark

Of the tired dog, stretched at some cottage
door,

The echo of the axe, 'mid forest swung,
And the loud laugh, drowning the faint
halloo.

I and of our fathers ! though 'tis ours to
roam,

A land upon whose bosom thou mightst
lie,

Like infant on its mother's—though 'tis
ours

To gaze upon a nobler heritage
Than thou couldst e'er unshadow to thy
sons,—

Though ours to linger upon fount and
sky,

Wilder, and peopled with great spirits,
who

Walk with a deeper majesty than thine,—
Yet, as our father-land, O, who shall
tell

The lone, mysterious energy which
calls

Upon our sinking spirits to walk forth
Amid thy wood and mount, where every
hill

Is eloquent with beauty and the tale
And song of centuries, the cloudless
years

When fairies walked thy valleys, and the
turf

Rung to their tiny footsteps, and quick
flowers

Sprang with the lifting grass on which
they trod—

When all the landscape murmured to its
rills,

And joy with hope slept in its leafy
bowers !

[GEORGE P. MORRIS. DIED 1864.]

WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE.

WOODMAN, spare that tree!
 Touch not a single bough!
 In youth it sheltered me,
 And I'll protect it now.
 'Twas my forefather's hand
 That placed it near his cot;
 There, woodman, let it stand,
 Thy axe shall harm it not!

That old familiar tree,
 Whose glory and renown
 Are spread o'er land and sea,
 And wouldst thou hew it down?
 Woodman, forbear thy stroke!
 Cut not its earth-bound ties;
 Oh spare that aged oak,
 Now towering to the skies!

When but an idle boy
 I sought its graceful shade;
 In all their gushing joy
 Here too my sisters played.
 My mother kissed me here;
 My father pressed my hand—
 Forgive this foolish tear,
 But let that old oak stand.

My heart-strings round thee cling
 Close as thy bark, old friend!
 Here shall the wild-bird sing,
 And still thy branches bend.
 Old tree! the storm still brave!
 And, woodman, leave the spot;
 While I've a hand to save,
 Thy axe shall harm it not.

[EDGAR ALLAN POE. 1811—1849.]

THE RAVEN.

ONCE upon a midnight dreary, while I
 pondered, weak and weary,
 Over many a quaint and curious volume
 of forgotten lore—
 While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly
 there came a tapping,
 As of some one gently rapping, rapping
 at my chamber-door;

"'Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tap-
 ping at my chamber-door—
 Only this and nothing more."

Ah! distinctly I remember it was in the
 bleak December,
 And each separate dying ember wrought
 its ghost upon the floor.
 Eagerly I wished the morrow; vainly I
 had sought to borrow
 From my books surcease of sorrow—
 sorrow for the lost Lenore—
 For the rare and radiant maiden whom
 the angels name Lenore—
 Nameless here for evermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of
 each purple curtain
 Thrilled me—filled me with fantastic
 terrors never felt before;
 So that now to still the beating of my
 heart, I stood repeating:
 "'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at
 my chamber-door—
 Some late visitor entreating entrance at
 my chamber-door:
 This it is, and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesita-
 ting then no longer,
 "Sir," said I, "or madam, truly your
 forgiveness I implore;
 But the fact is I was napping, and so
 gently you came rapping,
 And so faintly you came tapping, tapping
 at my chamber-door,
 That I scarce was sure I heard you"—here
 I opened wide the door—
 Darkness there, and nothing
 more.

Deep into that darkness peering, long I
 stood there wondering, fearing,
 Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortals
 ever dared to dream before;
 But the silence was unbroken, and the
 stillness gave no token,
 And the only word there spoken was the
 whispered word, "Lenore!"
 This I whispered, and an echo murmured
 back the word, "Lenore!"—
 Merely this, and nothing
 more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my
soul within me burning,
Soon again I heard a tapping something
louder than before.
"Surely," said I—"surely that is some-
thing at my window lattice;
Let me see, then, what the matter is, and this
mystery explore—
Let my heart be still a moment, and this
mystery explore.

'Tis the wind, and nothing
more."

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with
many a flirt and flutter,
In there stepped a stately Raven of the
saintly days of yore.
Not the least obeisance made he; not a
minute stopped or stayed he;
But, with mien of lord or lady, he
above my chamber-door—
Perched upon a bust of Pallas, just above
my chamber-door—

Perched and sat, and nothing
more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad
fancy into smiling,
By the grave and stern decorum of the
countenance it wore,
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven,
thou," I said, "art sure no craven,
Ghastly, grim, and ancient Raven, wander-
ing from the nightly shore—
Tell me what thy lordly name is on the
night's Plutonian shore!"

Quoth the Raven: "Never
more."

Much I marvelled this ungainly fowl to
hear discourse so plainly,
Though its answer little meaning—little
relevancy bore;
For we cannot help agreeing that no living
human being
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird
above his chamber-door—
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust
above his chamber-door,

With such name as "Never
more."

But the Raven, sitting lonely on that
placid bust, spoke only
That one word, as if his soul in that one
word he did outpour.
Nothing further then he uttered; not a
feather then he fluttered—
Till I scarcely more than muttered:
"Other friends have flown before—
On the morrow he will leave me, as my
hopes have flown before."

Then the bird said: "Never
more."

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so
aptly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is
its only stock and store,
Caught from some unhappy master, whom
unmerciful disaster
Followed fast and followed faster, till his
songs one burden bore—
Till the dirges of his hope that melan-
choly burden bore,
Of 'Never—never more.'"

But the Raven still beguiling all my sad-
ness into smiling,
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in
front of bird and bust and door;
Then upon the velvet sinking, I betook
myself to linking
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this
ominous bird of yore—
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt,
and ominous bird of yore
Meant in croaking "Never
more."

This I sat engaged in guessing, but no
syllable expressing
To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned
into my bosom's core;
This and more I sat divining, with my
head at ease reclining
On the cushion's velvet lining, that the
lamp-light gloated o'er,
But whose velvet violet lining with the
lamp-light gloating o'er
She shall press—ah, never
more!

Then, methought, the air grew denser,
perfumed from an unseen censer
Swung by seraphim, whose footfalls
tinkled on the tufted floor.

"Wretch!" I cried, "thy god hath lent
thee—by these angels he hath sent
thee

Respite—respite and nepenthe from thy
memories of Lenore!

Quaff, O quaff, this kind nepenthe, and
forget this lost Lenore!"

Quoth the Raven: "Never
more!"

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—
prophet still, if bird or devil!

Whether tempter sent, or whether tempest
tossed thee here ashore,

Desolate, yet all undaunted, on this desert
land enchanted—

On this home by horror haunted—tell me
truly, I implore—

Is there—~~is~~ there balm in Gilead?—tell
me—tell me, I implore!"

Quoth the Raven: "Never
more."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!—
prophet still, if bird or devil!

By that heaven that bends above us—by
that God we both adore,

Tell this soul, with sorrow laden, if within
the distant Aiden,

It shall clasp a sainted maiden, whom the
angels name Lenore—

Clasp a rare and radiant maiden, whom
the angels name Lenore?"

Quoth the Raven: "Never
more."

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird
or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting—

Get thee back into the tempest and the
night's Plutonian shore!

Leave no black plume as a token of that
lie thy soul hath spoken!

Leave my loneliness unbroken!—quit the
bust above my door!

Take thy beak from out my heart, and
take thy form from off my door!"

Quoth the Raven: "Never
more."

And the Raven, never flitting, still is
sitting, still is sitting,

On the pallid bust of Pallas, just above
my chamber-door:

And his eyes have all the seeming of a
demon's that is dreaming,

And the lamp-light o'er him streaming,
throws his shadow on the floor;

And my soul from out that shadow that
lies floating on the floor,

Shall be lifted—never more!

[HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW]

HYMN TO THE NIGHT.

I HEARD the trailing garments of the
Night

Sweep through her marble halls!

I saw her sable skirts all fringed with
light

From the celestial walls!

I felt her presence by its spell of might,
Stoop o'er me from above;

The calm, majestic presence of the
Night,

As of the one I love.

I heard the sounds of sorrow and de-
light,

The manifold, soft chimes,

That fill the haunted chambers of the
Night,

Like some old poet's rhymes.

From the cool cisterns of the midnight
air

My spirit drank repose;

The fountain of perpetual peace flows
there,—

From those deep cisterns flows.

O holy Night! from thee I learn to bear
What man has borne before:

Thou lay'st thy finger on the lips of
Care,

And they complain no more.

Peace ! Peace ! Orestes-like I breathe
 this prayer
 Descend with broad-winged flight,
 The welcome, the thrice-prayed-for, the
 most fair,
 The best-beloved Night !

A PSALM OF LIFE.

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN
 SAID TO THE PSALMIST.

TELL me not, in mournful numbers,
 "Life is but an empty dream !"
 For the soul is dead that slumbers,
 And things are not what they seem.

Life is real ! Life is earnest !
 And the grave is not its goal ;
 "Dust thou art, to dust returnest,"
 Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
 Is our destined end or way ;
 But to act, that each to-morrow
 Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
 And our hearts, though stout and brave,
 Still, like muffled drums are beating
 Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
 In the bivouac of Life,
 Be not like dumb, driven cattle !
 Be a hero in the strife !

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant !
 Let the dead Past bury its dead !
 Act,—act in the living Present !
 Heart within, and God o'erhead !

Lives of great men all remind us
 We can make our lives sublime,
 And, departing, leave behind us
 Footprints on the sands of time ;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
 Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
 A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
 Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
 With a heart for any fate ;
 Still achieving, still pursuing,
 Learn to labour and to wait.

THE LIGHT OF STARS.

THE night is come, but not too soon ;
 And sinking silently,
 All silently, the little moon
 Drops down behind the sky.

There is no light in earth or heaven,
 But the cold light of stars ;
 And the first watch of night is given
 To the red planet Mars.

Is it the tender star of love ?
 The star of love and dreams ?
 O no ! from that blue tent above,
 A hero's armour gleams.

And earnest thoughts within me rise,
 When I behold afar,
 Suspended in the evening skies,
 The shield of that red star.

O star of strength ! I see thee stand
 And smile upon my pain ;
 Thou beckonest with thy mailed hand,
 And I am strong again.

Within my breast there is no light,
 But the cold light of stars ;
 I give the first watch of the night
 To the red planet Mars.

The star of the unconquered will,
 He rises in my breast,
 Serene, and resolute, and still,
 And calm, and self-possessed.

And thou, too, whosoe'er thou art,
 That redest this brief psalm,
 As one by one thy hopes depart,
 Be resolute and calm.

O fear not in a world like this,
 And thou shalt know ere long,
 Know how sublime a thing it is
 To suffer and be strong.

THE REAPER AND THE FLOWERS.

THERE is a Reaper whose name is
Death,

And, with his sickle keen,
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath,
And the flowers that grow between.

"Shall I have nought that is fair?"
saith he;

"Have nought but the bearded grain?
Though the breath of these flowers is
sweet to me,
I will give them all back again."

He gazed at the flowers with tearful
eyes,

He kissed their drooping leaves;
It was for the Lord of Paradise
He bound them in his sheaves.

"My Lord has need of these flowerets
gay,"

The Reaper said, and smiled;
"Dear tokens of the earth are they,
Where He was once a child.

"They shall all bloom in fields of
light,

Transplanted by My care,
And saints, upon their garments white,
These sacred blossoms wear."

And the mother gave, in tears and
pain,

The flowers she most did love;
She knew she should find them all again
In the fields of light above.

O, not in cruelty, not in wrath,
The Reaper came that day;
'Twas an angel visited the green earth,
And took the flowers away.

~~~~~  
FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS.

WHEN the hours of Day are numbered,  
And the voices of the Night  
Wake the better soul, that slumbered,  
To a holy, calm delight;

Ere the evening lamps are lighted,  
And, like phantoms grim and tall,  
Shadows from the fitful fire-light  
Dance upon the parlour wall,

Then the forms of the departed  
Enter at the open door;  
The beloved, the true-hearted,  
Come to visit me once more;

He, the young and strong, who cherished  
Noble longings for the strife,  
By the roadside fell and perished,  
Weary with the march of life!

They, the holy ones and weakly,  
Who the cross of suffering bore,  
Folded their pale hands so meekly,  
Spake with us on earth no more!

And with them the Being Beauteous,  
Who unto my youth was given,  
More than all things else to love me,  
And is now a saint in heaven.

With a slow and noiseless footstep  
Comes that messenger divine,  
Takes the vacant chair beside me,  
Lays her gentle hand in mine.

And she sits and gazes at me  
With those deep and tender eyes,  
Like the stars, so still and saint-like,  
Looking downward from the skies.

Uttered not, yet comprehended,  
Is the spirit's voiceless prayer,  
Soft rebukes, in blessings ended,  
Breathing from her lips of air.

O, though oft depressed and lonely,  
All my fears are laid aside,  
If I but remember only  
Such as these have lived and died!

~~~~~  
RESIGNATION.

THERE is no flock, however watched and
tended,
But one dead lamb is there!
There is no fireside, howsoever defended,
But has one vacant chair!

The air is full of farewells to the dying,
And mournings for the dead;
The heart of Rachel, for her children
crying,
Will not be comforted !

Let us be patient ! These severe afflictions
Not from the ground arise,
But oftentimes celestial benedictions
Assume this dark disguise.

We see but dimly through the mists and vapours,
Amid these earthly damps ;
What seem to us but sad funeral tapers,
May be heaven's distant lamps.

There is no Death ! What seems so is transition ;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call death.

She is not dead,—the child of our affection,—
But gone unto that school
Where she no longer needs our poor protection,
And Christ himself doth rule.

In that great cloister's stillness and seclusion,
By guardian angels led,
Safe from temptation, safe from sin's pollution,
She lives, whom we call dead.

Day after day we think what she is doing
In those bright realms of air ;
Year after year, her tender steps pursuing,
Behold her grown more fair.

Thus do we walk with her, and keep unbroken
The bond which nature gives,
Thinking that our remembrance, though unspoken,
May reach her where she lives.

Not as a child shall we again behold her ;
For when with raptures wild
In our embraces we again enfold her,
She will not be a child ;

But a fair maiden, in her Father's mansion,
Clothed with celestial grace ;
And beautiful with all the soul's expansion
Shall we behold her face.

And though at times impetuous with emotion
And anguish long suppressed,
The swelling heart heaves moaning like the ocean,
That cannot be at rest,—

We will be patient, and assuage the feeling
We may not wholly stay ;
By silence sanctifying, not concealing,
The grief that must have way.

THE ROPE-WALK.

In that building long and low,
With its windows all a row,
Like the port-holes of a hulk,
Human spiders spin and spin,
Backward down their threads so thin
Dropping, each, a hempen bulk.

At the end an open door ;
Squares of sunshine on the floor
Light the long and dusky lane ;
And the whirling of a wheel,
Dull and drowsy, makes me feel
All its spokes are in my brain.

As the spinners to the end
Downward go and reascend,
Glean the long threads in the sun ;
While within this brain of mine
Cobwebs brighter and more fine
By the busy wheel are spun.

Two fair maidens in a swing,
Like white doves upon the wing,

First before my vision pass ;
 Laughing, as their gentle hands
 Closely clasp the twisted strands,
 At the shadow on the grass.

Then a booth of mountebanks,
 With its smell of tan and planks,
 And a girl poised high in air
 On a cord, in spangled dress,
 With a faded loveliness,
 And a weary look of care.

Then a homestead among farms,
 And a woman with bare arms,
 Drawing water from a well ;
 As the bucket mounts apace,
 With it mounts her own fair face,
 As at some magician's spell.

Then an old man in a tower
 Ringing loud the noontide hour,
 While the rope coils round and round,
 Like a serpent, at his feet,
 And again in swift retreat
 Almost lifts him from the ground.

Then within a prison-yard,
 Faces fixed, and stern, and hard,
 Laughter and indecent mirth ;
 Ah ! it is the gallows-tree !
 Breath of Christian charity,
 Blow, and sweep it from the earth !

Then a schoolboy, with his kite,
 Gleaming in a sky of light,
 And an eager, upward look ;
 Steeds pursued through lane and field ;
 Fowls with their snares concealed,
 And an angler by a brook.

Ships rejoicing in the breeze,
 Wrecks that float o'er unknown seas,
 Anchors dragged through faithless
 sand ;
 Sea-fog drifting overhead,
 And with lessening line and lead
 Sailors feeling for the land.

All these scenes do I behold,
 These and many left untold,
 In that building long and low ;
 While the wheels go round and round
 With a drowsy, dreamy sound,
 And the spinners backward go.

THE TWO ANGELS.

Two Angels, one of Life, and one of
 Death,
 Passed o'er the village as the morning
 broke ; [neath,
 The dawn was on their faces ; and be-
 The sombre houses capped with plumes
 of smoke.

Their attitude and aspect were the same
 Alike their features and their robes of
 white ;
 And one was crowned with amaranth, as
 with flame,
 And one with asphodels, like flakes of
 light.

I saw them pause on their celestial
 way :—
 Then said I, with deep fear and doubt
 oppressed, [betray
 "Beat not so loud, my heart, lest thou
 The place where thy beloved are at
 rest !"

And he who wore the crown of asphodels,
 Descending at my door, began to
 knock ;
 And my soul sank within me, as in wells
 The waters sunk before an earthquake's
 shock.

I recognised the nameless agony—
 The terror, and the tremor, and the
 pain—
 That oft before had filled and haunted
 me,
 And now returned with threefold
 strength again.

The door I opened to my heavenly guest,
 And listened, for I thought I heard
 God's voice ; [best,
 And, knowing whatsoever He sent was
 Dared neither to lament nor to rejoice.

Then with a smile that filled the house
 with light—
 "My errand is not Death, but Life,"
 he said ;
 And, ere I answered, passing out of sight,
 On his celestial embassy he sped.

'Twas at thy door, O friend, and not at mine,
The angel with the amaranthine wreath,
Pausing, descended; and, with voice divine,
Whispered a word, that had a sound like Death.

Then fell upon the house a sudden gloom—
A shadow on those features fair and thin;
And softly, from that hushed and darkened room,
Two angels issued, where but one went in.

All is of God! If He but wave His hand,
The mists collect, the rains fall thick and loud;
Till, with a smile of light on sea and land,
Lo! He looks back from the departing cloud.

Angels of Life and Death alike are His;
Without His leave they pass no threshold o'er;
Who, then, would wish or dare, believing this,
Against His messengers to shut the door?

HAUNTED HOUSES.

ALL houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses. Through the open doors
The harmless phantoms on their errands glide,
With feet that make no sound upon the floors.

We meet them at the doorway, on the stair,
Along the passages they come and go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to and fro.

There are more guests at table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with quiet, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.

The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
He but perceives what is; while unto me
All that has been is visible and clear.

We have no title-deeds to house or lands;
Owners and occupants of earlier dates
From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates.

The spirit-world around this world of sense [where
Floats like an atmosphere, and every-
Wafts through these earthly mists and vapours dense
A vital breath of more ethereal air.

Our little lives are kept in equipoise
By opposite attractions and desires!
The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
And the more noble instinct that aspires.

These perturbations, this perpetual jar
Of earthly wants and aspirations high,
Come from the influence of an unseen star,
An undiscovered planet in our sky.

And as the moon from some dark gate or cloud
Throws o'er the sea a floating bridge of light,
Across whose trembling planks our fancies crowd
Into the realm of mystery and night,—

So from the world of spirits there descends
A bridge of light, connecting it with this, [bends,
O'er whose unsteady floor, that sways and
Wander our thoughts above the dark abyss.

DAYLIGHT AND MOONLIGHT.

In broad daylight, and at noon,
Yesterday I saw the moon
Sailing high, but faint and white,
As a schoolboy's paper kite.

In broad daylight, yesterday,
I read a poet's mystic lay ;
And it seemed to me at most
As a phantom or a ghost.

But at length the feverish day
Like a passion died away,
And the night, serene and still,
Fell on village, vale, and hill.

Then the moon, in all her pride,
Like a spirit glorified,
Filled and overflowed the night
With revelations of her light.

And the poet's song again
Passed like music through my brain ;
Night interpreted to me
All its grace and mystery.

~~~~~  
VICTOR GALBRAITH.

UNDER the walls of Monterey  
At daybreak the bugles began to play,  
Victor Galbraith !  
In the mist of the morning damp and  
gray,  
These were the words they seemed to  
say,  
"Come forth to thy death,  
Victor Galbraith !"

Forth he came, with a martial tread ;  
Firm was his step, erect his head ;  
Victor Galbraith,  
He who so well the bugle played,  
Could not mistake the words it said :  
"Come forth to thy death,  
Victor Galbraith !"

He looked at the earth, he looked at the  
sky,  
He looked at the files of musketry,  
Victor Galbraith !

And he said, with a steady voice and eye,  
"Take good aim ; I am ready to die !"  
Thus challenges death  
Victor Galbraith.

Twelve fiery tongues flashed straight and  
red,  
Six leaden balls on their errand sped ;  
Victor Galbraith  
Falls on the ground, but he is not dead ;  
His name was not stamped on those balls  
of lead,  
And they only scathe  
Victor Galbraith.

Three balls are in his breast and brain,  
But he rises out of the dust again,  
Victor Galbraith !  
The water he drinks has a bloody stain !  
"O kill me, and put me out of my pain !"  
In his agony prayeth  
Victor Galbraith.

Forth dart once more these tongues of  
flame,  
And the bugler has died a death of shame,  
Victor Galbraith ! [came,  
His soul has gone back to whence it  
And no one answers to the name,  
When the sergeant saith,  
"Victor Galbraith !"

Under the walls of Monterey  
By night a bugle is heard to play,  
Victor Galbraith !  
Through the mist of the valley damp and  
gray  
The sentinels hear the sound, and say,  
"That is the wraith  
Of Victor Galbraith !"

~~~~~  
SANTA FILOMENA.

WHENE'ER a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoke a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise,
To higher levels rise.

The tidal wave of deeper souls
Into our inmost being rolls,
And lifts us unawares
Out of all meaner cares.

Honour to those whose words or deed
Thus help us in our daily need,
And by their overflow
Raise us from what is low !

Thus thought I, as by night I read
Of the great army of the dead,
The trenches cold and damp,
The starved and frozen camp,—

The wounded from the battle-plain,
In dreary hospitals of pain,
The cheerless corridors,
The cold and stony floors.

Lo ! in that house of misery
A lady with a lamp I see
Pass through the glimmering gloom,
And flit from room to room.

And slow, as in a dream of bliss,
The speechless sufferer turns to kiss
Her shadow, as it falls
Upon the darkening walls.

As if a door in heaven should be
Opened and then closed suddenly,
The vision came and went,
The light shone and was spent.

On England's annals, through the long
Hereafter of her speech and song,
That light its rays shall cast
From portals of the past.

A Lady with a Lamp shall stand
In the great history of the land,
A noble type of good,
Heroic womanhood.

Nor even shall be wanting here
The palm, the lily, and the spear,
The symbols that of yore
Saint Filomena bore.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.

UNDER a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands ;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands ;
And the muscles of his brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

His hair is crisp, and black, and long,
His face is like the tan ;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
He earns whate'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,
For he owes not any man.

Week in, week out, from morn till night,
You can hear his bellows blow ;
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

And children coming home from school
Look in at the open door :
They love to see the flaming forge,
And hear the bellows roar,
And catch the burning sparks that fly
Like chaff from a threshing floor.

He goes on Sunday to the church,
And sits among his boys ;
He hears the parson pray and preach,
He hears his daughter's voice
Singing in the village choir,
And makes his heart rejoice.

It sounds to him like her mother's voice,
Singing in Paradise !
He needs must think of her once more,
How in the grave she lies ;
And with his hard, rough hand he wipe
A tear out of his eyes.

Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes ;
Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees it close ;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy
friend,
For the lesson thou hast taught !
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought ;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought !

EXCELSIOR.

THE shades of night were falling fast,
As through an Alpine village passed
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,
A banner with the strange device,—
Excelsior !

His brow was sad ; his eye beneath,
Flashed like a falchion from its sheath ;
And like a silver clarion rung,
The accents of that unknown tongue,
Excelsior !

In happy homes he saw the light
Of household fires gleam warm and bright :
Above, the spectral glaciers shone,
And from his lips escaped a groan,
Excelsior !

"Try not the Pass !" the old man said ;
"Dark lowers the tempest overhead,
The roaring torrent is deep and wide !"
And loud that clarion voice replied,
Excelsior !

"O stay," the maiden said, "and rest
Thy weary head upon this breast !"
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,
But still he answered, with a sigh,
Excelsior !

"Beware the pine-tree's withered branch !
Beware the awful avalanche !"
This was the peasant's last Good-night.
A voice replied, far up the height,
Excelsior !

At break of day, as heavenward
The pious monks of Saint Bernard
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,
A voice cried through the startled air,
Excelsior !

A traveller, by the faithful hound,
Half-buried in the snow was found,
Still grasping in his hand of ice
That banner with the strange device,
Excelsior !

There in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay,
And from the sky, serene and far,
A voice fell, like a falling star,
Excelsior !

RAIN IN SUMMER.

How beautiful is the rain !
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain !

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs !
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing spout !
Across the window-pane
It pours and pours ;
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain !

The sick man from his chamber
Looks at the twisted brooks ;
He can feel the cool
Breath of each little pool ;
His fevered brain
Grows calm again,
And he breathes a blessing on the rain.

From the neighbouring school
Come the boys,
With more than their wonted noise
And commotion ;
And down the wet streets
Sail their mimic fleets,
Till the treacherous pool
Engulfs them in its whirling
And turbulent ocean.

In the country, on every side,
Where far and wide,
Like a leopard's tawny and spotted hide
Stretches the plain,
To the dry grass and the drier grain
How welcome is the rain !

In the furrowed land
The toilsome and patient oxen stand ;
Lifting the yoke-encumbered head,
With their dilated nostrils spread,
They silently inhale
The clover-scented gale

And the vapours that arise
From the well-watered and smoking soil.
For this rest in the furrow after toil
Their large and lustrous eyes
Seem to thank the Lord,
More than man's spoken word.

Near at hand,
From under the sheltering trees,
The farmer sees
His pastures, and his fields of grain,
As they bend their tops
To the numberless beating drops
Of the incessant rain.
He counts it as no sin
That he sees therein
Only his own thrift and gain.

These, and far more than these,
The Poet sees !
He can behold
Aquarius old
Walking the fenceless fields of air ;
And from each ample fold
Of the clouds about him rolled
Scattering everywhere
The showery rain
As the farmer scatters his grain.

He can behold
Things manifold
That have not yet been wholly told,
Have not been wholly sung nor said.
For his thought, that never stops,
Follows the water-drops
Down to the graves of the dead,
Down through chasms and gulfs profound,
To the dreary fountain-head
Of lakes and rivers under ground ;
And sees them, when the rain is done,
On the bridge of colours seven
Climbing up once more to heaven,
Opposite the setting sun.

Thus the Seer,
With vision clear,
Sees forms appear and disappear,
In the perpetual round of strange
Mysterious change,
From birth to death, from death to birth,
From earth to heaven, from heaven to
earth ;
Till glimpses more sublime

Of things, unseen before,
Unto his wondering eyes reveal
The Universe, as an immeasurable wheel
Turning for evermore
In the rapid and rushing river of Time.

THE SINGERS.

God sent his singers upon earth
With songs of sadness and of mirth,
That they might touch the hearts of men,
And bring them back to heaven again.

The first, a youth, with soul of fire,
Held in his hand a golden lyre ;
Through groves he wandered, and by
streams,
Playing the music of our dreams.

The second, with a bearded face,
Stood singing in the market-place,
And stirred with accents deep and loud
The hearts of all the listening crowd.

A gray, old man, the third and last,
Sang in cathedrals dim and vast,
While the majestic organ rolled
Contrition from its mouths of gold.

And those who heard the Singers three
Disputed which the best might be ;
For still their music seemed to start
Discordant echoes in each heart.

But the great Master said, " I see
No best in kind, but in degree ;
I gave a various gift to each,
To charm, to strengthen, and to teach.

" These are the three great chords of
might,
And he whose ear is tuned aright
Will hear no discord in the three,
But the most perfect harmony."

UNSEEN FRIENDS.

A DEDICATION.

As one who/ walking in the twilight
gloom,
Hears round about him voices as it
darkens,

And seeing not the forms from which they
come,
Pauses from time to time, and turns and
hearkens ;

So walking here, in twilight, O my
friends !

I hear your voices, softened by the
distance,

And pause, and turn to listen, as each
sends

His words of friendship, comfort, and
assistance.

If any thought of mine, or sung or told,

Has ever given delight or consolation,

Ye have repaid me back a thousandfold,

By every friendly sign and salutation.

Thanks for the sympathies that ye have
shown !

Thanks for each kindly word, each
silent token,

That teaches me, when seeming most
alone,

Friends are around us, though no word
be spoken.

Kind messages, that pass from land to
land ;

Kind letters, that betray the heart's
deep history,

In which we feel the pressure of a
hand,—

One touch of fire,—and all the rest is
mystery !

The pleasant books, that silently among
Our household treasures take familiar
places,

And are to us as if a living tongue

Spake from the printed leaves or pic-
tured faces !

Perhaps on earth I never shall behold,
With eye of sense, your outward form
and semblance ;

Therefore to me ye never will grow old,
But live for ever young in my remem-
brance.

Never grow old, nor change, nor pass
away !

Your gentle voices will flow on for
ever,

When life grows bare and tarnished with
decay,

As through a leafless landscape flows a
river.

Not chance of birth or place has made us
friends,

Being oftentimes of different tongues
and nations,

But the endeavour for the selfsame ends,
With the same hopes, and fears, and
aspirations.

Therefore I hope to join your seaside
walk,

Saddened, and mostly silent, with
emotion ;

Not interrupting with intrusive talk
The grand, majestic symphonies of
ocean.

Therefore I hope, as no unwelcome guest,
At your warm fireside, when the lamps
are lighted,

To have my place reserved among the rest,
Nor stand as one unsought and un-
invited !

THE PRIMEVAL FOREST.

Evangelina.

THIS is the forest primeval. The mur-
muring pines and the hemlocks,

Bearded with moss, and in garments green,
indistinct in the twilight.

Stand like Druids of eld, with voices sad
and prophetic,

Stand like harpers hoar, with beards that
rest on their bosoms.

Loud from its rocky caverns, the deep-
voiced neighbouring ocean

Speaks, and in accents disconsolate an-
swers the wail of the forest.

This is the forest primeval ; but where
are the hearts that beneath it

Leaped like the roe, when he hears in the
woodland the voice of the huntsman ?

Where is the thatch-roofed village, the
home of Acadian farmers,—
Men whose lives glided on like rivers that
watered the woodlands,
Darkened by shadows of earth, but reflect-
ing an image of heaven?
Waste are those pleasant farms, and the
farmers for ever departed!
Scattered like dust and leaves, when the
mighty blasts of October
Seize them, and whirl them aloft, and
sprinkle them far o'er the ocean.
Nought but tradition remains of the beau-
tiful village of Grand-Pré.

THE ARROW AND THE SONG.

I SHOT an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.

THE OLD CLOCK ON THE STAIRS.

SOMEWHAT back from the village street
Stands the old-fashioned country-seat;
Across its antique portico
Tall poplar-trees their shadows throw,
And from its station in the hall
An ancient timepiece says to all,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

Half-way up the stairs it stands,
And points and beckons with its hands
From its case of massive oak,
Like a monk, who, under his cloak,
Crosses himself, and sighs alas!
With sorrowful voice to all who pass,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

By day its voice is low and light;
But in the silent dead of night,
Distinct as a passing footstep's fall,
It echoes along the vacant hall,
Along the ceiling, along the floor,
And seems to say at each chamber-door,
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

Through days of sorrow and of mirth,
Through days of death and days of birth,
Through every swift vicissitude
Of changeful time, unchanged it has stood,
And as if, like God, it all things saw,
It calmly repeats those words of awe,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

In that mansion used to be
Free-hearted Hospitality;
His great fires up the chimney roared;
The stranger feasted at his board;
But, like the skeleton at the feast,
That warning timepiece never ceased,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

There groups of merry children played,
There youths and maidens dreaming
strayed;
O precious hours! O golden prime,
And affluence of love and time!
Even as a miser counts his gold,
Those hours the ancient timepiece told,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

From that chamber, clothed in white,
The bride came forth on her wedding
night;
There, in that silent room below,
The dead lay in his shroud of snow;
And in the hush that followed the prayer,
Was heard the old clock on the stair,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

All are scattered now and fled,
Some are married, some are dead,
And when I ask, with throbs of pain,
“Ah! when shall they all meet again?”
As in the days long-since gone by,
The ancient timepiece makes reply,—
“Forever—never! Never—forever!”

Never here, forever there,
Where all parting, pain, and care,

And death, and time shall disappear,—
Forever there, but never here !
The horologe of Eternity
Sayeth this incessantly,—
“Forever—never ! Never—forever !”

~~~~~

### THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS.

It was the schooner Hesperus,  
That sailed the wintry sea ;  
And the skipper had taken his little  
daughter,  
To bear him company.

Blue were her eyes as the fairy-flax,  
Her cheeks like the dawn of day,  
And her bosom white as the hawthorn  
buds  
That ope in the month of May.

The skipper he stood beside the helm,  
His pipe was in his mouth,  
And he watched how the veering flaw did  
blow  
The smoke now west, now south.

Then up and spake an old sailör,  
Had sailed the Spanish Main,  
“I pray thee put into yonder port,  
For I fear a hurricane.

“Last night, the moon had a golden ring,  
And to-night no moon we see !”  
The skipper, he blew a whiff from his  
pipe,  
And a scornful laugh laughed he.

Colder and louder blew the wind,  
A gale from the north-east ;  
The snow fell hissing in the brine,  
And the billows frothed like yeast.

Down came the storm, and smote amain  
The vessel in its strength ;  
She shuddered and paused, like a frightened  
steed,  
Then leaped her cable's length.

“Come hither! come hither! my little  
daughter,  
And do not tremble so ;  
For I can weather the roughest gale  
That ever wind did blow.”

He wrapped her warm in his seaman's  
coat  
Against the stinging blast ;  
He cut a rope from a broken spar,  
And bound her to the mast.

“O father ! I hear the church-bells ring  
O say what may it be ?”  
“Tis a fog-bell on a rock-bound coast  
And he steered for the open sea.

“O father ! I hear the sound of guns,  
O say what may it be ?”  
“Some ship in distress, that cannot live  
In such an angry sea !”

“O father ! I see a gleaming light,  
O say what may it be ?”  
But the father answered never a word,—  
A frozen corpse was he.

Lashed to the helm, all stiff and stark,  
With his face turned to the skies,  
The lantern gleamed through the gleam-  
ing snow  
On his fixed and glassy eyes.

Then the maiden clasped her hands and  
prayed  
That saved she might be ;  
And she thought of Christ, who stilled the  
wave  
On the Lake of Galilee.

And fast through the midnight dark and  
drear,  
Through the whistling sleet and snow,  
Like a sheeted ghost, the vessel swept  
Towards the reef of Norman's Woe.

And ever the fitful gusts between  
A sound came from the land ;  
It was the sound of the trampling surf,  
On the rocks and the hard sea-sand.

The breakers were right beneath her  
bows,  
She drifted a dreary wreck,  
And a whooping billow swept the crew  
Like icicles from her deck.

She struck where the white and fleecy  
waves  
Looked soft as carded wool,  
But the cruel rocks, they gored her side  
Like the horns of an angry bull.

Her rattling shrouds, all sheathed in  
ice,  
With the masts went by the board ;  
Like a vessel of glass, she stove and  
sank,  
Ho! ho! the breakers roared!

At daybreak, on the bleak sea-beach,  
A fisherman stood aghast,  
To see the form of a maiden fair,  
Lashed close to a drifting mast.

The salt sea was frozen on her breast,  
The salt tears in her eyes ;  
And he saw her hair, like the brown sea-  
weed,  
On the billows fall and rise.

Such was the wreck of the Hesperus,  
In the midnight and the snow !  
Christ save us all from a death like this,  
On the reef of Norman's Woe !

### THE SHIP OF STATE.

*The Building of the Ship.*

THOU, too, sail on, O Ship of State !  
Sail on, O Union, strong and great !  
Humanity with all its fears,  
With all the hopes of future years,  
Is hanging breathless on thy fate !  
We know what Master laid thy keel,  
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,  
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,  
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,  
In what a forge and what a heat  
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope !  
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,  
'Tis of the wave and not the rock ;  
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,  
And not a rent made by the gale !  
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,  
In spite of false lights on the shore,  
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea !  
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee ;  
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,  
Are all with thee,—are all with thee !

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# SUPPLEMENT

## TO THE

### TWENTY-THIRD EDITION.

[SIR EDWIN ARNOLD.]

**THE RAJAH'S RIDE.**

Now is the devil-horse come to Sindh !

Wah ! wah ! gooroo ! that is true !

His belly is stuffed with the fire and the  
wind, but a fleeter steed had Run-  
jeet Dehu !

It's forty koss from Lahore to the ford,  
forty and more to far Jummoo ;

Fast may go the Feringhee lord, but  
never so fast as Runjeet Dehu !

Runjeet Dehu was King of the Hill, lord  
and eagle of every crest ;

Now the swords and the spears are still,  
God will have it, and God knows  
best !

Rajah Runjeet sate in the sky, watching  
the loaded Kafilas in ;

Affghan Kashmeree, passing by, paid  
him pushm to save their skin.

Once he caracoled into the plain, wah  
the sparkle of steel and steel !

And up the pass came singing again,  
with a lakh of silver borne at his  
heel.

Once he trusted the Mussulman's word,  
wah ! wah ! trust a liar to lie !

Down from his eyrie they tempted my  
Bird, and clipped his wings that he  
could not fly.

Fettered him fast in far Lahore, fast by  
the gate at the Runchenee Pûl ;

Sad was the soul of Chunda Kour, glad  
the merchants of rich Kurnool.

Ten months Runjeet lay in Lahore—  
wah ! a hero's heart is brass !

Ten months never did Chunda Kour  
braid her hair at the tiring-glass.

There came a steed from Toorkistan,  
wah ! God made him to match the  
hawk !

Fast beside him the four grooms ran, to  
keep abreast the Toorkman's walk.

Black as the bear on Iskardoo ; savage  
at heart as a tiger chained :

Fleeter than hawk that ever flew, never  
a Muslim could ride him reined.

"Runjeet Dehu ! come forth from thy  
hold"—wah ! ten months has rusted  
his chain !

"Ride this Sheitan's liver cold." Runjeet  
twisted his hand in the mane.

Runjeet sprang on the Toorkman's back,  
wah ! a king on a kingly throne !

Snort, black Sheitan ! till nostrils crack,  
Rajah Runjeet sits, a stone.

Three times round the Maiden he rode,  
touched its neck at Kashmeree wall,  
Struck the spurs till they spirted blood,  
leapt the rampart before them all !

Breasted the waves of the blue Ravee,  
forty horsemen mounting behind,

Forty bridle-chains flung free—wah !  
wah ! better chase the wind !

Chunda Kour sate sad in Jummoo :—  
Hark ! what horse-hoof echoes with-  
out ?

"Rise ! and welcome Runjeet Dehu—  
wash the Toorkman's nostrils out !

"Forty koss he has come, my life!  
 forty koss back he must carry me;  
 Rajah Runjeet visits his wife, he steals  
 no steed like an Afreedee.

"They bade me teach them how to ride  
 —wah! wah! now I have taught  
 them well!"

Chunda Kour sunk low at his side!  
 Rajah Runjeet rode the hill.

When he came back to far Lahore long  
 or ever the night began—  
 Spake he, "Take your horse once  
 more; he carries well—when he  
 bears a man."

Then they gave him a khillut and gold,  
 all for his honour and grace and  
 truth;

Sent him back to his mountain-hold—  
 Muslim manners have touch of ruth.

Sent him back, with dances and drum—  
 wah! my Rajah Runjeet Dehu!

To Chunda Kour and his Jummo home  
 —wah! wah! futtee! wah, gooroo!

### SONNET TO AMERICA.

AMERICA! At this thy Golden Gate  
 New travelled from those portals of the  
 West

Parting—I make my reverence! It was  
 best

With backward looks to quit a queen in  
 state!

Land of all lands most fair, and free, and  
 great,

Of countless kindred lips, wherefrom I  
 heard

Sweet speech of Shakespeare—keep it  
 • consecrate

For noble uses! Land of Freedom's  
 Bird,

Fearless and proud! so let him soar  
 that, stirred

\* By generous joy, all lands may learn  
 from thee

A larger Life, and Europe, undeterred  
 By ancient dreads, dare also to be free

Body and Soul, seeing thine eagle gaze  
 Undazzled, upon Freedom's sun full-  
 blaze.

[MATTHEW ARNOLD.]

### CADMUS AND HARMONIA.

FAR, far, from here,  
 The Adriatic breaks in a warm bay  
 Among the green Illyrian hills; and  
 there

The sunshine in the happy glens is fair,  
 And by the sea, and in the brakes.

The grass is cool, the sea-side air  
 Buoyant and fresh, the mountain flowers  
 More virginal and sweet than ours.

And there, they say, two bright and  
 aged Snakes,

Who once were Cadmus and Harmonia,  
 Bask in the glens or on the warm sea-  
 shore,

In breathless quiet, after all their ills.  
 Nor do they see their country, nor the  
 place

Where the Sphinx liv'd among the  
 frowning hills,

Nor the unhappy palace of their race,  
 Nor Thebes, nor the Ismenus, any more.

There those two live, far in the Illyrian  
 brakes.

They had stay'd long enough to see,  
 In Thebes, the billow of calamity

Over their own dear children roll'd,\*  
 Curse upon curse, pang upon pang.

For years, they sitting helpless in their  
 home,

A grey old man and woman: yet of old  
 The Gods had to their marriage come,  
 And at the banquet all the Muses sang.

Therefore they did not end their days  
 In sight of blood; but were rapt, far  
 away,

To where the west wind plays,  
 And murmurs of the Adriatic come

To those untrodden mountain lawns:  
 and there,

Placed safely in chang'd forms, the Pair

Wholly forget their first sad life, and  
home,  
And all that Theban woe, and stray  
For ever through the glens, placid and  
dumb.

~~~~~  
PHILOMELA.

HARK ! ah, the Nightingale
The tawny-throated !
Hark ! from the moonlit cedar what a
burst !
What triumph ! hark—what pain !

O Wanderer from a Grecian shore,
Still, after many years, in distant lands,
Still nourishing in thy bewilder'd brain
That wild, unquench'd, deep-sunken, old-
world pain—

Say, will it never heal ?
And can this fragrant lawn
With its cool trees, and night,
And the sweet, tranquil Thames,
And moonshine, and the dew,
To thy rack'd heart and brain
Afford no balm ?

Dost thou to-night behold
Here, through the moonlight on this
English grass,
The unfriendly palace in the Thracian
wild ?

Dost thou again peruse
With hot cheeks and sear'd eyes
The too clear web, and thy dumb
Sister's shame ?

Dost thou once assay
Thy flight, and feel come over thee,
Poor Fugitive, the feathery change
Once more, and once more seem to
make resound

With love and hate, triumph and agony,
Lone Daulis, and the high Cephissian
vale ?

Listen, Eugenia—
How thick the bursts come crowding
through the leaves !

Again—thou hearest !
Eternal Passion !
Eternal Pain !

[ALFRED AUSTIN.]

THE DEATH OF HUSS.

IN the streets of Constance was heard
the shout,
"Masters ! bring the arch-heretic out !"
The stake had been planted, the faggots
spread,
And the tongues of the torches flickered
red.
"Huss to the flames !" they fiercely
cried :
Then the gates of the Convent opened
wide.

Into the sun from the dark he came,
His face as fixed as a face in a frame ;
His arms were pinioned, but you could
see,
By the smile round his mouth, that his
soul was free ;
And his eye with a strange bright glow
was lit,
Like a star just before the dawn
quenched it.

To the pyre the crowd a pathway made
And he walked along it with no man's
aid ;
Steadily on to the place he trod,
Commending aloud his soul to God.
Aloud he prayed, though they mocked
his prayer :
He was the only thing tranquil there.

But seeing the faggots, he quickened his
pace,
As we do when we see the loved one's
face.

"Now, now, let the torch in the resin
flare
Till my books and body be ashes and
air !
But the spirit of both shall return to
men,
As dew that rises descends again."

From the back of the crowd where the
women wept,
And the children whispered, a peasant
stepped.
A goodly faggot was on his back,
Brittle and sere, from last year's stack ;

And he placed it carefully where the
torch
Was sure to lick and the flame to scorch.

"Why bring you fresh fuel, friend?
Here are sticks
To burn up a score of heretics."
Answered the peasant, "Because this
year,
My hearth will be cold, for is firewood
dear ;

And Heaven be witness I pay my toll,
And burn your body to save my soul."

Huss gazed at the peasant, he gazed at
the pile,
Then over his features there stole a
smile.

"O Sancta Simplicitas ! By God's troth,
This faggot of yours may save us both,
And he who judgeth perchance prefer
To the victim the executioner !"

Then unto the stake was he tightly tied,
And the torches were lowered and thrust
inside.

You could hear the twigs crackle and
sputter the flesh,

Then "Sancta Simplicitas" moaned
afresh,

'Twas the last men heard of the words he
spoke ;

Ere to Heaven his soul went up with
the smoke !

IN THE MONTH WHEN SINGS THE CUCKOO.

I.

HARK ! Spring is coming. Her herald
sings,

The air resounds and the woodland
rings,

Leave the milking-pail and the mant-
ling cream,
And down by the meadow, and up by
the stream,

Where movement is music and life a
dream,
In the month when sings the cuckoo.

II.

Away with old Winter's frowns and
fears,

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !
Now May with a smile dries April's
tears,

Cuckoo !
When the bees are humming in bloom
and bud,
And the kine sit chewing the moist green
cud,
Shall the snow not melt in a maiden's
blood,

In the month when sings the cuckoo !

III.

The popinjay mates and the lapwing
woos ;

Cuckoo !
In the lane is a footstep. I wonder
whose ?

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !
How sweet are low whispers ! and sweet,
so sweet,
When the warm hands touch, and the
shy lips meet,
And sorrel and woodruff are round our
feet,

In the month when sings the cuckoo.

IV.

Your face is as fragrant as moist musk-
rose ;

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !
All the year in your cheek the windflower
blows ;

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !
You flit as blithely as bird on wing ;
And when you answer, and when they
sing,
I know not if they, or You, be Spring,
In the month when pairs the cuckoo.

V.

Will you love me still when the blossom
drips ?

Cuckoo !

When the cracked husk falls and the
fieldfare troops?

Cuckoo !

Let sere leaf or snowdrift shade your
brow,

By the soul of the Spring, sweetheart, I
vow,

I will love you then as I love you now,
In the month when sings the cuckoo.

VI.

Smooth, smooth is the sward where the
loosestrife grows,

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

As we lie and hear in a dreamy doze,

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

And smooth is the curve of a maiden's
check,

When she loves to listen but fears to
speak,

As we yearn but we know not what we
seek,

In the month when sings the cuckoo.

VII.

But in warm midsummer we hear no
more,

Cuckoo !

And August brings not, with all its
store,

Cuckoo !

When Autumn shivers on Winter's
brink,

And the wet wind wails through crevice
and chink,

We gaze at the logs, and sadly think
Of the month when called the cuckoo.

VIII.

But the cuckoo comes back and shouts
once more,

Cuckoo !

And the world is as young as it was
before ;

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

It grows not older for mortal tears,
For the falsehood of men or for women's
fears ;

'Tis as young as it was in the bygone
years,

When first we heard the cuckoo.

IX.

I will love you then as I love you now
Cuckoo !

What cares the Spring for a broken vow ?
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

The broods of last year are pairing, this ;
And there never will lack, while love is
bliss,

Fresh ears to cozen, fresh lips to kiss,
In the month when sings the cuckoo.

X.

O cruel bird ! will you never have done ?
Cuckoo ! Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

You sing for the cloud, as you sung for
the sun ;

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

You mock me now as you mocked me
then,

When I knew not yet that the loves of
men

Are as brief as the glamour of glade and
glen,

And the glee of the fleeting cuckoo.

XI.

Oh ! to lie once more in the long fresh
grass,

Cuckoo !

And dream of the sounds and scents that
pass ;

Cuckoo ! Cuckoo !

To savour the woodbine, surmise the
dove,

With no roof save the far-off sky above,
With a curtain of kisses round couch of
love,

While distantly called the cuckoo.

XII.

But if now I slept, I should sleep to
wake

To the sleepless pang and the dreamless
ache,

To the wild babe blossom within my
heart,

To the darkening terror and swelling
smart,

To the searching look and the words
apart,

And the hint of the tell-tale cuckoo.

XIII.

The meadow grows thick, and the
stream runs deep,

Cuckoo!

Where the aspens quake and the willows
weep;

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

The dew of the night and the morning
heat

Will close up the track of my farewell
feet:—

So goodbye to the life that once was
sweet,

When so sweetly called the cuckoo.

XIV.

The kine are un milked, and the cream
unchurned,

Cuckoo!

The pillow unpressed, and the quilt
unturned,

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

'Twas easy to gibe at a beldame's fear
For the quick brief blush and the side-
ling tear;

But if maids will gad in the youth of the
year,

They should heed what says the cuckoo!

XV.

There are marks in the meadow laid up
for hay,

Cuckoo!

And the tread of a foot where no foot
should stray:

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

The banks of the pool are broken down,
Where the water is quiet and deep and
brown;—

The very spot, if one longed to drown,
And no more hear the cuckoo.

XVI.

'Tis a full taut net and a heavy haul.

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

Look! her auburn hair and her trim new
shawl!

Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

Draw a bit this way where 'tis not so
steep;

There, cover her face! She but seems
asleep;

While the swallows skim and the gray-
lings leap,

And joyously sings the cuckoo.

AVE MARIA.

I.

In the ages of Faith, before the day
When men were too proud to weep or
pray,

There stood in a red-roofed Breton
town,

Snugly nestled 'twixt sea and down,

A chapel for simple souls to meet,

Nightly, and sing with voices sweet.

Ave Maria!

II.

There was an idiot, palsied, bleared,
With unkempt locks and a matted
beard,

Hunched from the cradle, vacant-eyed,
And whose head kept rolling from side

to side;

Yet who, when the sunset-glow grew
dim,

Joined with the rest in the twilight
hymn,

Ave Maria!

III.

But when they up-got and wended
home,

Those up the hillside, these to the foam,
He hobbled along in the narrowing

dusk,
Like a thing that is only hull and husk;

On as he hobbled, chanting still,

Now to himself, now loud and shrill,

Ave Maria!

IV.

When morning smiled on the smiling
deep,

And the fisherman woke from dreamless
sleep,

And ran up his sail, and trimmed his
craft,

While his little ones leaped on the sand
and laughed,
The senseless cripple would stand and
stare,
Then suddenly holloa his wonted prayer,
Ave Maria!

V.

Others might plough, and reap, and sow,
Delve in the sunshine, spin in snow,
Make sweet love in a shelter sweet,
Or trundle their dead in a winding-
sheet;
But he, through rapture, and pain, and
wrong,
Kept singing his one monotonous song,
Ave Maria!

VI.

When thunder growled from the ravelled
wrack
And ocean to welkin bellowed back,
And the lightning sprang from its cloudy
sheath,
And tore through the forest with jagged
teeth,
Then leaped and laughed o'er the havoc
wreaked,
The idiot clapped with his hands, and
shrieked,
Ave Maria!

VII.

Children mocked, and mimicked his
feet,
As he slouched or sidled along the
street;
Maidens shrank as he passed them by,
And mothers with child eschewed his
eye;
And half in pity, half scorn, the folk
Christened him, from the words he
spoke,
Ave Maria!

VIII.

One year when the harvest feasts were
done,
And the mending of tattered nets begun,
And the kittiwake's scream took a
weirder key
From the wailing wind and the moaning
sea,

He was found, at morn, on the fresh-
strewn snow,
Frozen, and faint, and crooning low,
Ave Maria!

IX.

They stirred up the ashes between the
dogs,
And warmed his limbs by the blazing
logs,
Chafed his puckered and bloodless skin,
And strove to quiet his chattering chin;
But, ebbing with unreturning tide,
He kept on murmuring till he died,
Ave Maria!

X.

Idiot, soulless, brute from birth,
He could not be buried in sacred earth;
So they laid him afar, apart, alone,
Without or a cross, or turf, or stone,
Senseless clay unto senseless clay,
To which none ever came nigh to say,
Ave Maria!

XI.

When the meads grew saffron, the haw-
thorn white,
And the lark bore his music out of
sight,
And the swallow outraced the racing
wave,
Up from the lonely, outcast grave,
Sprouted a lily, straight and high,
Such as She bears to whom men cry.
Ave Maria!

XII.

None had planted it, no one knew
How it had come there, why it grew;
Grew up strong, till its stately stem
Was crowned with a snow-white
diadem,—
One pure lily, round which, behold!
Was written by God in veins of gold,
“Ave Maria”!

XIII.

Over the lily they built a shrine,
Where are mingled the mystic bread and
wine;
Shrine you may see in the little town
That is snugly nestled 'twixt deep and
down,

Through the Breton land it hath wondrous fame,
And it bears the unshriven idiot's name
Ave Maria!

XIV.

Hunchbacked, gibbering, blear-eyed,
halt,
From forehead to footstep one foul fault,
Crazy, contorted, mindless-born
The gentle's pity, the cruel's scorn.
Who shall bar you the gates of Day
So you have simple faith to say,
Ave Maria!

[W. C. BENNETT.]

BABY MAY.

CHEEKS as soft as July peaches,
Lips whose dewy scarlet teaches
Poppies paleness—round large eyes
Ever great with new surprise,
Minutes filled with shadeless gladness,
Minutes just as brimming with sadness,
Happy smiles and wailing cries,
Crows and laughs and tearful eyes,
Lights and shadows swifter born
Than on wind-swept Autumn corn,
Ever some new tiny notion
Making every limb all motion—
Catchings up of legs and arms,
Throwings back and small alarms,
Clutching fingers—straightening jerks,
Twining feet whose each toe works,
Kickings up and straining risings,
Mother's ever new surprisings,
Hands all wants and looks ad wonder
At all things the heavens under,
Tiny scorns of smiled reproving
That have more of love than lovings,
Mischiefs done with such a winning
Archness, that we prize such sinning,
Breakings dire of plates and glasses,
Graspings small at all that passes,
Pullings off of all that's able
To be caught from tray or table;
Silences—small meditations,
Deep as thoughts of cares for nations,
Breaking into wisest speeches
In a tongue that nothing teaches,

All the thoughts of whose possessing
Must be wooed to light by guessing;
Slumbers—such sweet angel-seemings,
That we'd ever have such dreamings,
Till from sleep we see thee breaking,
And we'd always have thee waking;
Wealth for which we know no measure,
Pleasure high above all pleasure,
Gladness brimming over gladness,
Joy in care—delight in sadness,
Loveliness beyond completeness,
Sweetness distancing all sweetness,
Beauty all that beauty may be—
That's May Bennett, that's my baby.

BABY'S SHOES.

O THOSE little, those little blue shoes!
Those shoes that no little feet use!
O the price were high
That those shoes would buy,
Those little blue unused shoes!

For they hold the small shape of feet
That no more their mother's eyes meet,
That by God's good will,
Years since grew still,
And ceased from their totter so sweet!

And O, since that baby slept,
So hush'd! how the mother has kept,
With a tearful pleasure,
That little dear treasure,
And o'er them thought and wept!

For they mind her for evermore
Of a patter along the floor,
And blue eyes she sees
Look up from her knees,
With the look that in life they wore.

As they lie before her there,
There babbles from chair to chair
A little sweet face,
That's a gleam in the place,
With its little gold curls of hair.

Then O wonder not that her heart
From all else would rather part
Than those tiny blue shoes
That no little feet use,
And whose sight makes such fond tears
start.

THE WORN WEDDING-RING.

YOUR wedding-ring wears thin, dear wife ; ah, summers not a few,
 Since I put it on your finger first, have pass'd o'er me and you ;
 And, love, what changes we have seen—what cares and pleasures, too,
 Since you became my own dear wife, when this old ring was new.

O, blessings on that happy day, the happiest of my life,
 When, thanks to God, your low, sweet "Yes" made you my loving wife ;
 Your heart will say the same, I know ; that day's as dear to you,—
 That day that made me yours, dear wife, when this old ring was new.

How well do I remember now your young sweet face that day !
 How fair you were, how dear you were, my tongue could hardly say,
 Nor how I doated on you ; ah, how proud I was of you ;
 But did I love you more than now, when this old ring was new ?

No—no ; no fairer were you then than at this hour to me ;
 And, dear as life to me this day, how could you dearer be ?
 As sweet your face might be that day as now it is, 'tis true,
 But did I know your heart as well when this old ring was new ?

O, partner of my gladness, wife, what care, what grief is there
 For me you would not bravely face, with me you would not share ?

O, what a weary want had every day, if wanting you,
 Wanting the love that God made mine when this old ring was new.

Years bring fresh links to bind us, wife—young voices that are hear,
 Young faces round our fire that make their mother's yet more dear,
 Young, loving hearts, your care each day makes yet more like to you,
 More like the loving heart made mine when this old ring was new.

And, bless'd be God ! all He has given are with us yet ; around
 Our table, every precious life lent to us still is found ;
 Though cares we've known, with hopeful hearts the worst we've struggled through :
 Bless'd be His name for all His love since this old ring was new.

The past is dear ; its sweetness still our memories treasure yet ;
 The griefs we've borne, together borne, we would not now forget ;
 Whatever, wife, the future brings, heart unto heart still true,
 We'll share as we have shared all else since this old ring was new.

And if God spare us 'mongst our sons and daughters to grow old,
 We know His goodness will not let your heart or mine grow cold ;
 Your aged eyes will see in mine all they've still shown to you,
 And mine in yours all they have seen since this old ring was new.

And O, when death shall come at last to bid me to my rest,
 May I die looking in those eyes, and resting on that breast ;
 O, may my parting gaze be bless'd with the dear sight of you,
 Of those fond eyes—fond as they were when this old ring was new.

[ROBERT BROWNING.]

HERVÉ RIEL.

I.

ON the sea and at the Hogue, sixteen hundred ninety-two,
 Did the English fight the French,—woe to France !
 And, the thirty-first of May, helter-skelter through the blue,
 Like a crowd of frightened porpoises a shoal of sharks pursue,
 Came crowding ship on ship to Saint-Malo on the Rance,
 With the English fleet in view.

II.

'Twas the squadron that escaped, with
the victor in full chase ;
First and foremost of the drove, in his
great ship, *Damfreville* ;
Close on him fled, great and small,
Twenty-two good ships in all ;
And they signalled to the place
" Help the winners of a race !
Get us guidance, give us harbour, take
us quick—or, quicker still,
Here's the English can and will ! "

III.

Then the pilots of the place put out brisk
and leapt on board :
" Why, what hope or chance have
ships like these to pass ? " laughed
they :
" Rocks to starboard, rocks to port, all
the passage scarred and scored,—
Shall the ' *Formidable* ' here, with her
twelve and eighty guns,
Think to make the river-mouth by the
single narrow way,
Trust to enter—where 'tis ticklish for a
craft of twenty tons.
And with flow at full beside ?
Now, 'tis slackest ebb of tide.
Reach the mooring ? Rather say,
While rock stands or water runs,
Not a ship will leave the bay ! "

IV.

Then was called a council straight.
Brief and bitter the debate :
" Here's the English at our heels ; would
you have them take in tow
All that's left us of the fleet, linked to-
gether stern and bow,
For a prize to Plymouth Sound ?
Better run the ships aground ! "
(Ended *Damfreville* his speech).
" Not a minute more to wait !
Let the Captains all and each
Shove ashore, then blow up, burn the
vessels on the beach !
France must undergo her fate.

V.

Give the word ! " But no such word
Was ever spoke or heard ;

For up stood, for out stepped, for in
struck amid all these
—A Captain ? A Lieutenant ? A Mate
—first, second, third ?
No such man of mark, and meet
With his betters to compete !
But a simple Breton sailor pressed by
Tourville for the fleet,
A poor coasting-pilot he, *Hervé Reil* the
Croisickese.

VI.

And " What mockery or malice have we
here ? " cries *Hervé Reil* :
" Are you mad, you *Malouins* ? Are
you cowards, fools, or rogues ?
Talk to me of rocks and shoals, me who
took the soundings, tell
On my fingers every bank, every shallow,
every swell
'Twixt the offing here and *Grève* where
the river disembogues ?
Are you bought by English gold ? Is it
love the lying's for ?
Morn and eve, night and day,
Have I piloted your bay,
Entered free and anchored fast at the
foot of *Solidor*.
Burn the fleet and ruin France ? That
were worse than fifty *Hogues* !
Sirs, they know I speak the truth !
Sirs, believe me there's a way !
Only let me lead the line,
Have the biggest ship to steer,
Get this ' *Formidable* ' clear,
Make the others follow mine,
And I lead them, most and least, by a
passage I know well.
Right to *Solidor* past *Grève*,
And there lay them safe and sound ;
And if one ship misbehave,—
—Keel so much as grate the ground,
Why, I've nothing but my life,—here's
my head ! " cries *Hervé Reil*.

VII.

Not a minute more to wait.
" Steer us in, then, small and great !
Take the helm, lead the line, save the
squadron ! " cried its chief.
Captains, give the sailor place !
He is Admiral, in brief.

Still the north-wind, by God's grace
See the noble fellow's face
As the big ship, with a bound,
Clears the entry like a hound,
Keeps the passage, as its inch of way
were the wide sea's profound!

See, safe thro' shoal and rock,
How they follow in a flock,
Not a ship that misbehaves, not a keel
that grates the ground,
Not a spar that comes to grief!
The peril, see, is past.
All are harboured to the last,
And just as Hervé Riel hollas "Anchor!"
—sure as fate,
Up the English come,—too late!

VIII.

So, the storm subsides to calm:
They see the green trees wave
On the heights o'erlooking Grève.
Hearts that bled and stanch'd with
balm.

"Just our rapture to enhance,
Let the English rake the bay,
Gnash their teeth and glare askance
As they cannonade away!
'Neath rampired Solidor pleasant riding
on the Rance!"

How hope succeeds despair on each
Captain's countenance!

Out burst all with one accord,
"This is Paradise for Hell!
Let France, let France's King
Thank the man that did the thing!"
What a shout, and all one word,
"Hervé Riel!"

As he stepped in front once more,
Not a symptom of surprise
In the frank blue Breton eyes,
Just the same man as before.

IX.

Then said Damfreville, "My friend,
I must speak out at the end,

Though I find the speaking hard.
Praise is deeper than the lips:

You have saved the King his ships,

You must name your own reward.

'Faith, our sun was near eclipse!

Demand whate'er you will,

France remains your debtor still.

Ask to heart's content and have! or my
name's not Damfreville."

X.

Then a beam of fun outbroke
On the bearded mouth that spoke,
As the honest heart laughed through
Those frank eyes of Breton blue:
"Since I needs must say my say,
Since on board the duty's done,
And from Malo Roads to Croisic
Point, what is it but a run?—
Since 't is ask and have, I may—
Since the others go ashore—
Come! A good whole holiday!
Leave to go and see my wife, whom I
call the Belle Aurore!"
That he asked and that he got,—no-
thing more.

XI.

Name and deed alike are lost:
Not a pillar nor a post
In his Croisic keeps alive the feat as it
befell;

Not a head in white and black
On a single fishing-smack,
In memory of the man but for whom had
gone to wrack

All that France saved from the fight
whence England bore the bell.

Go to Paris: rank on rank
Search the heroes flung pell-mell
On the Louvre, face and flank!

You shall look long enough ere you
come to Hervé Riel.

So, for better and for worse,
Hervé Riel, accept my verse!
In my verse, Hervé Riel, do thou once
more

Save the squadron, honour France, love
thy wife the Belle Aurore!

(By permission of Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co.)

[LORD MACAULAY.]

HORATIUS.

THERE can be little doubt that
among those parts of early Roman
history which had a poetical origin was
the legend of Horatius Cocles. We have
several versions of the story, and these
versions differ from each other in points
of no small importance. Polybius, there
is reason to believe, heard the tale recited

over the remains of some Consul or Prætor descended from the old Horatian patricians; for he evidently introduces it as a specimen of the narratives with which the Romans were in the habit of embellishing their funeral oratory. It is remarkable that, according to his description, Horatius defended the bridge alone, and perished in the waters. According to the chronicles which Livy and Dionysius followed, Horatius had two companions, swam safe to shore, and was loaded with honours and rewards.

These discrepancies are easily explained. Our own literature, indeed, will furnish an exact parallel to what may have taken place at Rome. It is highly probable that the memory of the war of Porsena was preserved by compositions much resembling the two ballads which stand first in the *Relics of Ancient English Poetry*. In both those ballads the English, commanded by the Percy, fight with the Scots, commanded by the Douglas. In one of the ballads the Douglas is killed by a nameless English archer, and the Percy by a Scottish spearman; in the other, the Percy slays the Douglas in single combat, and is himself made prisoner. In the former, Sir Hugh Montgomery is shot through the heart by a Northumbrian bowman; in the latter, he is taken and exchanged for the Percy. Yet both the ballads relate to the same event, and that an event which probably took place within the memory of persons who were alive when both the ballads were made. One of the minstrels says:

"Old men that knowen the grounde well
yenoughe
Call it the battell of Otterburn;
At Otterburn began this spurre
Upon a monnyn day.
Ther was the doughtie Douglas sleane;
The Perse never went away."

The other poet sums up the event in the following lines:

"Thys fraye bygan at Otterborne
Bytwene the nyghte and the day;
Ther the Dowglas lost hys lyte,
And the Percy was lede away."

It is by no means unlikely that there were two old Roman lays about the

defence of the bridge; and that, while the story which Livy has transmitted to us was preferred by the multitude, the other, which ascribed the whole glory to Horatius alone, may have been the favourite with the Horatian house.

The following ballad is supposed to have been made about a hundred and twenty years after the war which it celebrates, and just before the taking of Rome by the Gauls. The author seems to have been an honest citizen, proud of the military glory of his country, sick of the disputes of factions, and much given to pining after good old times which had never really existed. The allusion, however to the partial manner in which the public lands were allotted could proceed only from a plebeian; and the allusion to the fraudulent sale of spoils marks the date of the poem, and shows that the poet shared in the general discontent with which the proceedings of Camillus, after the taking of Veii, were regarded.

The penultimate syllable of the name Porsena has been shortened in spite of the authority of Niebuhr, who pronounces, without assigning any ground for his opinion, that Martial was guilty of a decided blunder in the line,

"Hanc spectare manum Porsena non potuit."

It is not easy to understand how any modern scholar, whatever his attainments be,—and those of Niebuhr were undoubtedly immense,—can venture to pronounce that Martial did not know the quantity of a word which he must have uttered and heard uttered a hundred times before he left school. Niebuhr seems also to have forgotten that Martial has fellow-culprits to keep him in countenance. Horace has committed the same decided blunder; for he gives us, as a pure iambic line,

"Miracis aut Etrusca Porsenæ manus."

Silius Italicus has repeatedly offended in the same way, as when he says,

"Cernitunefugiensardentem Porsena dextram:"

and again,

"Clusinum vulgus, cum, Porsena magnè
jubelas."

A modern writer may be content to err in such company.

Niebuhr's supposition that each of the three defenders of the bridge was the representative of one of the three patrician tribes is both ingenious and probable, and has been adopted in the following poem.

~~~~~  
HORATIUS.

A LAY MADE ABOUT THE YEAR OF THE CITY CCCLX.

I.

LARS PORSENA of Clusium  
By the Nine Gods he swore  
That the great house of Tarquin  
Should suffer wrong no more.  
By the Nine Gods he swore it,  
And named a trysting day,  
And bade his messengers ride forth,  
East and west and south and north,  
To summon his array.

II.

East and west and south and north  
The messengers ride fast,  
And tower and town and cottage  
Have heard the trumpet's blast.  
Shame on the false Etruscan  
Who lingers in his home,  
When Porsena of Clusium  
Is on the march for Rome.

III.

The horsemen and the footmen  
Are pouring in amain  
From many a stately market-place,  
From many a fruitful plain;  
From many a lonely hamlet,  
Which, hid by beech and pine,  
Like an eagle's nest, hangs on the crest  
Of purple Apennine;

IV.

From lordly Volaterræ,  
Where scowls the far-famed hold

Piled by the hands of giants  
For godlike kings of old;  
From seagirt Popuonia,  
Whose sentinels descry  
Sardinia's snowy mountain-tops  
Fringing the southern sky;

V.

From the proud mart of Pisæ,  
Queen of the western waves,  
Where ride Massilia's triremes  
Heavy with fair-haired slaves;  
From where sweet Clanis wanders  
Through corn and vines and flowers;  
From where Cortona lifts to heaven  
Her diadem of towers.

VI.

Tall are the oaks whose acorns  
Drop in dark Ausser's rill;  
Fat are the stags that champ the boughs  
Of the Ciminian hill;  
Beyond all streams Clitumnus  
Is to the herdsman dear;  
Best of all pools the fowler loves  
The great Volsinian mere.

VII.

But now no stroke of woodman  
Is heard by Ausser's rill;  
No hunter tracks the stag's green path  
Up the Ciminian hill;  
Unwatched along Clitumnus  
Grazes the milk-white steer;  
Unharm'd the water-fowl may dip  
In the Volsinian mere.

VIII.

The harvests of Arretium,  
This year, old men shall reap;  
This year, young boys in Umbro  
Shall plunge the struggling sheep;  
And in the vats of Luna,  
This year, the must shall foam  
Round the white feet of laughing girls,  
Whose sires have marched to Rome.

IX.

There be thirty chosen prophets,  
The wisest of the land,

Who alway by Lars Porsena  
Both morn and evening stand ;  
Evening and morn the Thirty  
Have turned the verses o'er,  
Traced from the right on linen white  
By mighty seers of yore.

## X.

And with one voice the Thirty  
Have their glad answer given :  
"Go forth, go forth, Lars Porsena ;  
Go forth, beloved of Heaven ;  
Go, and return in glory  
To Clusium's royal dome ;  
And hang round Nurscia's altars  
The golden shields of Rome."

## XI.

And now hath every city  
Sent up her tale of men ;  
The foot are fourscore thousand,  
The horse are thousands ten.  
Before the gates of Sutrium  
Is met the great array.  
A proud man was Lars Porsena  
Upon the trysting day.

## XII.

For all the Etruscan armies  
Were ranged beneath his eye,  
And many a banished Roman,  
And many a stout ally ;  
And with a mighty following  
To join the muster came  
The Tusculan Mamilius,  
Prince of the Latian name.

## XIII.

But by the yellow Tiber  
Was tumult and affright :  
From all the spacious champaign  
To Rome men took their flight.  
A mile around the city,  
The throng stopped up the ways ;  
A fearful sight it was to see  
Through two long nights and days.

## XIV.

For aged folk on crutches,  
And women great with child,

And mothers sobbing over babes  
That clung to them and smiled,  
And sick men borne in litters  
High on the necks of slaves,  
And troops of sun-burned husbandmen  
With reaping-hooks and staves.

## XV.

And droves of mules and asses  
Laden with skins of wine,  
And endless flocks of goats and sheep,  
And endless herds of kine.  
And endless trains of waggons  
That creaked beneath the weight  
Of corn-sacks and of household goods,  
Choked every roaring gate.

## XVI.

Now, from the rock Tarpeian,  
Could the wan burghers spy  
The line of blazing villages  
Red in the midnight sky.  
The Fathers of the City,  
They sat all night and day,  
For every hour some horseman came  
With tidings of dismay.

## XVII.

To eastward and to westward  
Have spread the Tuscan bands ;  
Nor house, nor fence, nor dovecote  
In Crustumium stands.  
Verbenna down to Ostia  
Hath wasted all the plain ;  
Astur hath stormed Janiculum,  
And the stout guards are slain.

## XVIII.

I wis, in all the Senate,  
There was no heart so bold,  
But sore it ached, and fast it beat,  
When that ill news was told.  
Forthwith up rose the Consul,  
Up rose the Fathers all ;  
In haste they girded up their gowns,  
And hid them to the wall.

## XIX.

They held a council standing  
Before the River-Gate ;

Short time was there, ye well may  
guess,

For musing or debate.

Out spake the Consul roundly :

"The bridge must straight go down ;  
For, since Janiculum is lost,  
Nought else can save the town."

## XX.

Just then a scout came flying,

All wild with haste and fear :

"To arms ! to arms ! Sir Consul :  
Lars Porsena is here."

On the low hills to westward

The Consul fixed his eye,

And saw the swarthy storm of dust  
Rise fast along the sky.

## XXI.

And nearer fast and nearer

Doth the red whirlwind come ;

And louder still and still more loud,

From underneath that rolling cloud,

Is heard the trumpet's war-note proud,

The trampling, and the hum.

And plainly and more plainly

Now through the gloom appears,

Far to left and far to right,

In broken gleams of dark-blue light,

The long array of helmets bright,

The long array of spears.

## XXII.

And plainly and more plainly,

Above that glimmering line,

Now might ye see the banners

Of twelve fair cities shine ;

But the banner of proud Clusium

Was highest of them all,

The terror of the Umbrian,

The terror of the Gaul.

## XXIII.

And plainly and more plainly

Now might the burghers know,

By port and vest, by horse and crest

Each warlike Lucumo.

There Cilnius of Arretium

On his fleet roan was seen ;

And Astur of the four-fold shield,

Girt with the brand none else may wield,

Tolumnius with the belt of gold,

And dark Verbenna from the hold  
By reedy Thrasymene.

## XXIV.

Fast by the royal standard

O'erlooking all the war,

Lars Porsena of Clusium

Sate in his ivory car.

By the right wheel rode Mamilius,

Prince of the Latian name ;

And by the left false Sextus,

That wrought the deed of shame.

## XXV.

But when the face of Sextus

Was seen among the foes,

A yell that rent the firmament

From all the town arose.

On the house-tops was no woman

But spat towards him and hissed ;

No child but screamed out curses,

And shook its little fist.

## XXVI.

But the Consul's brow was sad,

And the Consul's speech was low,

And darkly looked he at the wall,

And darkly at the foe.

"Their van will be upon us

Before the bridge goes down ;

And if they once may win the bridge,

What hope to save the town ?"

## XXVII.

Then out spake brave Horatius,

The Captain of the gate :

"To every man upon this earth

Death cometh soon or late ;

And how can man die better

Than facing fearful odds,

For the ashes of his fathers

And the temples of his Gods,

## XXVIII.

"And for the tender mother

Who dandled him to rest,

And for the wife who nurses

His baby at her breast,

And for the holy maidens

Who feed the eternal flame,

To save them from false Sextus

That wrought the deed of shame ?



## XXIX.

"Hew down the bridge, Sir Consul,  
 With all the speed ye may ;  
 I, with two more to help me,  
 Will hold the foe in play.  
 In yon strait path a thousand  
 May well be stopped by three.  
 Now who will stand on either hand,  
 And keep the bridge with me ?"

## XXX.

Then out spake Spurius Lartius ;  
 A Ramnian proud was he :  
 "Lo, I will stand at thy right hand,  
 And keep the bridge with thee."  
 And out spake strong Herminius ;  
 Of Titian blood was he :  
 "I will abide on thy left side,  
 And keep the bridge with thee."

## XXXI.

"Horatius," quoth the Consul,  
 "As thou sayest, so let it be."  
 And straight against that great array  
 Forth went the dauntless Three.  
 For Romans in Rome's quarrel  
 Spared neither land nor gold,  
 Nor son nor wife, nor limb nor life,  
 In the brave days of old.

## XXXII.

Then none was for a party ;  
 Then all were for the state ;  
 Then the great man helped the poor,  
 And the poor man loved the great :  
 Then lands were fairly portioned ;  
 Then spoils were fairly sold :  
 The Romans were like brothers  
 In the brave days of old.

## XXXIII.

Now Roman is to Roman  
 More hateful than a foe,  
 And the Tribunes beard the high,  
 And the Fathers grind the low.  
 As we wax hot in faction,  
 In battle we wax cold :  
 Wherefore men fight not as they fought  
 In the brave days of old.

## XXXIV.

Now while the Three were tightening  
 Their harness on their backs,  
 The Consul was the foremost man  
 To take in hand an axe :  
 And Fathers mixed with Commons,  
 Seized hatchet, bar, and crow,  
 And smote upon the planks above,  
 And loosed the props below.

## XXXV.

Meanwhile the Tuscan army,  
 Right glorious to behold,  
 Came flashing back the noonday light,  
 Rank behind rank, like surges bright  
 Of a broad sea of gold.  
 Four hundred trumpets sounded  
 A peal of warlike glee,  
 As that great host, with measured tread,  
 And spears advanced, and ensigns spread,  
 Rolled slowly towards the bridge's head,  
 Where stood the dauntless Three.

## XXXVI.

The Three stood calm and silent  
 And looked upon the foes,  
 And a great shout of laughter  
 From all the vanguard rose :  
 And forth three chiefs came spurring  
 Before that deep array ;  
 To earth they sprang, their swords they  
 drew,  
 And lifted high their shields, and flew  
 To win the narrow way ;

## XXXVII.

Aunus from green Tifernum,  
 Lord of the Hill of Vines ;  
 And Seius, whose eight hundred slaves  
 Sicken in Ilva's mines ;  
 And Picus, long to Clusium  
 Vassal in peace and war,  
 Who led to fight his Umbrian powers  
 From that grey crag where, girt with  
 towers,  
 The fortress of Nequinum lowers  
 O'er the pale waves of Nar.

## XXXVIII.

Stout Lartius hurled down Aunus  
 Into the stream beneath :

Herminius struck at Seius,  
 And clove him to the teeth :  
 At Picus brave Horatius  
 Darted one fiery thrust ;  
 And the proud Umbrian's gilded arms  
 Clashed in the bloody dust.

## XXXIX.

Then Ocnus of Falerii  
 Rushed on the Roman Three ;  
 And Lausulus of Urge,  
 The rover of the sea ;  
 And Aruns of Volsinium,  
 Who slew the great wild boar,  
 The great wild boar that had his den  
 Amidst the reeds of Cosa's fen,  
 And wasted fields, and slaughtered men,  
 Along Albinia's shore.

## XL.

Herminius smote down Aruns :  
 Lartius laid Ocnus low ;  
 Right to the heart of Lausulus  
 Horatius sent a blow.  
 "Lie there," he cried, "fell pirate !  
 No more, aghast and pale,  
 From Ostia's walls the crowd shall mark  
 The track of thy destroying bark.  
 No more Campana's hinds shall fly  
 To woods and caverns when they spy  
 Thy thrice-cursed sail."

## XLI.

But now no sound of laughter  
 Was heard among the foes.  
 A wild and wrathful clamour  
 From all the vanguard rose.  
 Six spears' lengths from the entrance  
 Halted that deep array,  
 And for a space no man came forth  
 To win the narrow way.

## XLII.

But hark ! the cry is Astur :  
 And lo ! the ranks divide ;  
 And the great Lord of Luna  
 Comes with his hasty stride.  
 Upon his ample shoulders  
 Clangs loud the fourfold shield,  
 And in his hand he shakes the brand  
 Which none but he can wield.

## XLIII.

He smiled on those bold Romans  
 A smile serene and high ;  
 He eyed the flinching Tuscans,  
 And scorn was in his eye.  
 Quoth he, "The she-wolf's litter  
 Stand savagely at bay :  
 But will ye dare to follow,  
 If Astur clears the way ?"

## XLIV.

Then, whirling up his broadsword  
 With both hands to the height,  
 He rushed against Horatius,  
 And smote with all his might.  
 With shield and blade Horatius  
 Right deftly turned the blow.  
 The blow, though turned, came yet too  
 nigh ;  
 It missed his helm, but gashed his thigh :  
 The Tuscans raised a joyful cry  
 To see the red blood flow.

## XLV.

He reeled, and on Herminius  
 He leaned one breathing-space ;  
 Then, like a wild cat mad with wounds,  
 Sprang right at Astur's face.  
 Through teeth, and skull, and helmet,  
 So fierce a thrust he sped,  
 The good sword stood a hand-breadth out  
 Behind the Tuscan's head.

## XLVI.

And the great Lord of Luna  
 Fell at that deadly stroke,  
 As falls on Mount Alvernus  
 A thunder-smitten oak.  
 Far o'er the crashing forest  
 The giant arms lie spread ;  
 And the pale augurs, muttering low,  
 Gaze on the blasted head:

## XLVII.

On Astur's throat Horatius  
 Right firmly pressed his heel,  
 And thrice and four times tugged amain,  
 Ere he wrenched out the steel.  
 "And see," he cried, "the welcome,  
 Fair guests, that waits you here !  
 What noble Lucumo comes next  
 To taste our Roman cheer?"

## XLVIII.

But at his haughty challenge  
 A sullen murmur ran,  
 Mingled of wrath, and shame, and dread,  
 Along that glittering van.  
 There lacked not men of prowess,  
 Nor men of lordly race ;  
 For all Etruria's noblest  
 Were round the fatal place.

## XLIX.

But all Etruria's noblest  
 Felt their hearts sink to see  
 On the earth the bloody corpses,  
 In the path the dauntless Three :  
 And, from the ghastly entrance  
 Where those bold Romans stood,  
 All shrank, like boys who unaware,  
 Ranging the woods to start a hare,  
 Come to the mouth of the dark lair  
 Where, growling low, a fierce old bear  
 Lies amidst bones and blood.

## L.

Was none who would be foremost  
 To lead such dire attack ;  
 But those behind cried " Forward ! "  
 And those before cried " Back ! "  
 And backward now and forward  
 Wavers the deep array ;  
 And on the tossing sea of steel,  
 To and fro the standards reel ;  
 And the victorious trumpet-peal  
 Dies fitfully away.

## LI.

Yet one man for one moment  
 Strode out before the crowd ;  
 Well known was he to all the Three,  
 And they gave him greeting loud.  
 " Now welcome, welcome, Sextus !  
 Now welcome to thy home !  
 Why dost thou stay, and turn away ?  
 Here lies the road to Rome. "

## LII.

Thrice looked he at the city ;  
 Thrice looked he at the dead ;  
 And thrice came on in fury,  
 And thrice turned back in dread :

And, white with fear and hatred,  
 Scowled at the narrow way,  
 Where, wallowing in a pool of blood,  
 The bravest Tuscans lay.

## LIII.

But meanwhile axe and lever  
 Have manfully been plied ;  
 And now the bridge hangs tottering  
 Above the boiling tide.  
 " Come back, come back, Horatius ! "  
 Loud cried the Fathers all.  
 " Back, Lartius ! back, Herminius !  
 Back, ere the ruin fall ! "

## LIV.

Back darted Spurius Lartius ;  
 Herminius darted back ;  
 And, as they passed, beneath their feet  
 They felt the timbers crack.  
 But when they turned their faces,  
 And on the farther shore  
 Saw brave Horatius stand alone,  
 They would have crossed once more.

## LV.

But with a crash like thunder  
 Fell every loosened beam,  
 And, like a dam, the mighty wreck  
 Lay right athwart the stream :  
 And a long shout of triumph  
 Rose from the walls of Rome,  
 As to the highest turret-tops  
 Was splashed the yellow foam.

## LVI.

And, like a horse unbroken  
 When first he feels the rein,  
 The furious river struggled hard,  
 And tossed his tawny mane ;  
 And burst the curb, and bounded,  
 Rejoicing to be free ;  
 And whirling down, in fierce career,  
 Battlement, and plank, and pier,  
 Rushed headlong to the sea.

## LVII.

Alone stood brave Horatius,  
 But constant still in mind ;  
 Thrice thirty thousand foes before,  
 And the broad flood behind.

"Down with him!" cried false Sextus;  
 With a smile on his pale face.  
 "Now yield thee," cried Lars Porsena,  
 "Now yield thee to our grace."

## LVIII.

Round turned he, as not deigning  
 Those craven ranks to see;  
 Nought spake he to Lars Porsena,  
 To Sextus nought spake he;  
 But he saw on Palatinus  
 The white porch of his home;  
 And he spake to the noble river  
 That rolls by the towers of Rome.

## LIX.

"O Tiber! father Tiber!  
 To whom the Romans pray,  
 A Roman's life, a Roman's arms,  
 Take thou in charge this day!"  
 So he spake, and speaking sheathed  
 The good sword by his side,  
 And with his harness on his back,  
 Plunged headlong in the tide.

## LX.

No sound of joy or sorrow  
 Was heard from either bank;  
 But friends and foes in dumb surprise  
 With parted lips and straining eyes,  
 Stood gazing where he sank;  
 And when above the surges  
 They saw his crest appear,  
 All Rome sent forth a rapturous cry,  
 And even the ranks of Tuscany  
 Could scarce forbear to cheer.

## LXI.

But fiercely ran the current,  
 Swollen high by months of rain;  
 And fast his blood was flowing;  
 And he was sore in pain,  
 And heavy with his armour,  
 And spent with changing blows:  
 And oft they thought him sinking,  
 But still again he rose.

## LXII.

Never, I ween, did swimmer,  
 In such an evil case,

Struggle through such a raging flood  
 Safe to the landing-place:  
 But his limbs were borne up bravely  
 By the brave heart within,  
 And our good father Tiber  
 Bare bravely up his chin.<sup>1</sup>

## LXIII.

"Curse on him!" quoth false Sextus;  
 "Will not the villain drown?  
 But for this stay, ere close of day  
 We should have sacked the town!"  
 "Heaven help him!" quoth Lars Porsena,  
 "And bring him safe to shore;  
 For such a gallant feat of arms  
 Was never seen before."

## LXIV.

And now he feels the bottom;  
 Now on dry earth he stands;  
 Now round him throng the Fathers  
 To press his gory hands;  
 And now with shouts and clapping,  
 And noise of weeping loud,  
 He enters through the River-Gate,  
 Borne by the joyous crowd.

## LXV.

They gave him of the corn-land,  
 That was of public right,  
 As much as two strong oxen  
 Could plough from morn till night;  
 And they made a molten image,  
 And set it up on high,  
 And there it stands unto this day  
 To witness if I lie.

## LXVI.

It stands in the Comitium,  
 Plain for all folk to see;

"Our ladye bare upp her chinne."  
*Ballad of Childe Waters.*

"Never heavier man and horse  
 Stemmed a midnight torrent's force;

Yet, through good heart and our Lady's  
 grace,  
 At length he gained the landing-place.'  
*Lay of the Last Minstrel.*

Horatius in his harness,  
 Halting upon one knee :  
 And underneath is written,  
 In letters all of gold,  
 How valiantly he kept the bridge  
 In the brave days of old.

## LXVII.

And still his name sounds stirring  
 Unto the men of Rome,  
 As the trumpet-blast that cries to them  
 To charge the Volscian home ;  
 And wives still pray to Juno  
 For boys with hearts as bold  
 As his who kept the bridge so well  
 In the brave days of old.

## LXVIII.

And in the nights of winter,  
 When the cold north winds blow,  
 And the long howling of the wolves  
 Is heard amidst the snow ;  
 When round the lonely cottage  
 Roars loud the tempest's din,  
 And the good logs of *Algidus*  
 Roar louder yet within ;

## LXIX.

When the oldest cask is opened,  
 And the largest lamp is lit,  
 When the chestnuts glow in the embers,  
 And the kid turns on the spit ;  
 When young and old in circle  
 Around the firebrands close ;  
 When the girls are weaving baskets,  
 And the lads are shaping bows ;

## LXX.

When the goodman mends his armour  
 And trims his helmet's plume ;  
 When the goodwife's shuttle merrily  
 Goes flashing through the loom ;  
 With weeping and with laughter  
 Still is the story told,  
 How well Horatius kept the bridge  
 In the brave days of old.

## VIRGINIA.

FRAGMENTS OF A LAY SUNG IN THE  
 FORUM ON THE DAY WHEREON  
 LUCIUS SEXTIUS SEXTINUS LATER-  
 ANUS AND CAIUS LICINIUS CALVUS  
 STOLO WERE ELECTED TRIBUNES  
 OF THE COMMONS THE FIFTH TIME,  
 IN THE YEAR OF THE CITY  
 CCCLXXXII.

YE good men of the Commons, with  
 loving hearts and true,  
 Who stand by the bold Tribunes that  
 still have stood by you,  
 Come, make a circle round me, and mark  
 my tale with care,  
 A tale of what Rome once hath borne,  
 of what Rome yet may bear.  
 This is no Grecian fable, of fountains  
 running wine,  
 Of maids with snaky tresses, or sailors  
 turned to swine.  
 Here, in this very Forum, under the  
 noonday sun,  
 In sight of all the people, the bloody  
 deed was done.  
 Old men still creep among us who saw  
 that fearful day,  
 Just seventy years and seven ago, when  
 the wicked Ten bare sway.

Of all the wicked Ten still the names  
 are held accursed,  
 And of all the wicked men Appius  
 Claudius was the worst.  
 He stalked along the Forum like King  
 Tarquin in his pride :  
 Twelve axes waited on him, six march-  
 ing on a side ;  
 The townsmen shrank to right and left,  
 and eyed askance with fear  
 His lowering brow, his curling mouth,  
 which always seemed to sneer :  
 That brow of hate, that mouth of scorn,  
 marks all the kindred still ;  
 For never was there Claudius yet but  
 wished the Commons ill :  
 Nor lacks he fit attendance ; for close  
 behind his heels,  
 With outstretched chin and crouching  
 pace, the client Marcus steals,

His lions girt up to run with speed, be  
the errand what it may,  
And the smile flickering on his cheek,  
for aught his lord may say.

Such varlets pimp and jest for hire  
among the lying Greeks :

Such varlets still are paid to hoot when  
brave Licinius speaks.

Where'er ye shed the honey, the buzzing  
flies will crowd ;

Where'er ye fling the carrion, the raven's  
croak is loud ;

Where'er down Tiber garbage floats, the  
greedy pike ye see ;

And wheresoe'er such lord is found, such  
client still will be.

Just then, as through one cloudless  
chink in a black stormy sky

Shines out the dewy morning-star, a fair  
young girl came by.

With her small tablets in her hand, and  
her satchel on her arm,

Home she went bounding from the school,  
nor dreamed of shame or harm ;

Ar ! past those dreaded axes she inno-  
cently ran,

With bright, frank brow, that had not  
learned to blush at gaze of man ;

And up the Sacred Street she turned,  
and, as she danced along,

She warbled gaily to herself lines of the  
good old song,

How for a sport the princes came spur-  
ring from the camp,

And found Lucrece, combing the fleece,  
under the midnight lamp.

The maiden sang as sings the lark, when  
up he darts his flight,

From his nest in the green April corn, to  
meet the morning light ;

And Appius heard her sweet young voice,  
and saw her sweet young face,

And loved her with the accursed love of  
his accursed race,

And all along the Forum, and up the  
Sacred Street,

His vulture eye pursued the trip of those  
small glancing feet.

Over the Alban mountains the light of  
morning broke ;

From all the roofs of the Seven Hills  
curled the thin wreaths of smoke :

The city-gates were opened ; the Forum,  
all alive,

With buyers and with sellers was hum-  
ming like a hive :

Blithely on brass and timber the crafts-  
man's stroke was ringing,

And blithely o'er her panniers the market-  
girl was singing,

And blithely young Virginia came smiling  
from her home :

Ah ! woe for young Virginia, the sweetest  
maid in Rome !

With her small tablets in her hand, and  
her satchel on her arm,

Forth she went bounding to the  
school, nor dreamed of shame or

harm.

She crossed the Forum shining with stalls  
in alleys gay,

And just had reached the very spot  
whereon I stand this day,

When up the varlet Marcus came ; not  
such as when erewhile

He crouched behind his patron's heels  
with the true client smile :

He came with lowering forehead, swollen  
features, and clenched fist,

And strode across Virginia's path, and  
caught her by the wrist.

Hard strove the frightened maiden, and  
screamed with look agast ;

And at her scream from right and left  
the folk came running fast ;

The money-changer Crispus, with his thin  
silver hairs,

And Hanno from the stately booth glitter-  
ing with Punic wares,

And the strong smith Muræna, grasping  
a half-forged brand,

And Volero the flesher, his clever in his  
hand.

All came in wrath and wonder ; for all  
knew that fair child ;

And, as she passed them twice a day, all  
kissed their hands and smiled ;

And the strong smith Muræna gave  
Marcus such a blow,

The caitiff reeled three paces back, and  
let the maiden go.

Yet glared he fiercely round him, and  
growled in harsh, fell tone,

"She's mine, and I will have her : I seek  
but for mine own :

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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| <p>She is my slave, born in my house, and<br/>stolen away and sold,<br/>The year of the sore sickness, ere she<br/>was twelve hours old.<br/>'Twas in the sad September, the month<br/>of wail and fright,<br/>Two augurs were borne forth that morn;<br/>the Consul died ere night.<br/>I wait on Appius Claudius; I waited on<br/>his sire:<br/>Let him who works the client wrong be-<br/>ware the patron's ire!"<br/>So spake the varlet Marcus; and dread<br/>and silence came<br/>On all the people at the sound of the<br/>great Claudian name.<br/>For then there was no Tribune to speak<br/>the word of might,<br/>Which makes the rich man tremble, and<br/>guards the poor man's right.<br/>There was no brave Licinius, no honest<br/>Sextius then;<br/>But all the city, in great fear, obeyed the<br/>wicked Ten.<br/>Yet ere the varlet Marcus again might<br/>seize the maid,<br/>Who clung tight to Muræna's skirt, and<br/>sobbed, and shrieked for aid,<br/>Forth through the throng of gazers the<br/>young Icilius pressed,<br/>And stamped his foot, and rent his gown,<br/>and smote upon his breast,<br/>And sprang upon that column, by many<br/>a minstrel sung,<br/>Whereon three mouldering helmets, three<br/>rusting swords, are hung,<br/>And beckoned to the people, and in bold<br/>voice and clear<br/>Poured thick and fast the burning words<br/>which tyrants quake to hear.</p> <p>"Now, by your children's cradles, now,<br/>by your fathers' graves,<br/>Be men to-day, Quirites, or be for ever<br/>slaves!<br/>For this did Servius give us laws? For<br/>this did Lucrece bleed?<br/>For this was the great vengeance wrought<br/>on Tarquin's evil seed?<br/>For this did those false sons make red<br/>the axes of their sire?<br/>For this did Scævola's right hand hiss in<br/>the Tuscan fire?</p> | <p>Shall the vile fox-earth awe the race that<br/>stormed the lion's den?<br/>Shall we, who could not brook one lord,<br/>crouch to the wicked Ten?<br/>Oh for that ancient spirit which curbed<br/>the Senate's will!<br/>Oh for the tents which in old time<br/>whitened the Sacred Hill!<br/>In those brave days our fathers stood<br/>firmly side by side;<br/>They faced the Marcian fury; they tamed<br/>the Fabian pride:<br/>They drove the fiercest Quinctius an out-<br/>cast forth from Rome;<br/>They sent the haughtiest Claudius with<br/>shivered fasces home.<br/>But what their care bequeathed us our<br/>madness flung away:<br/>All the ripe fruit of three-core years was<br/>blighted in a day.<br/>Exult, ye proud Patricians! The hard-<br/>fought fight is o'er.<br/>We strove for honours—'twas in vain:<br/>for freedom—'tis no more.<br/>No crier to the polling summons the<br/>eager throng;<br/>No Tribune breathes the word of might<br/>that guards the weak from wrong.<br/>Our very hearts, that were so high, sink<br/>down beneath your will.<br/>Riches, and lands, and power, and state<br/>— ye have them: — keep them<br/>still.<br/>Still keep the holy fillets; still keep the<br/>purple gown,<br/>The axes, and the curule chair, the <i>cap</i>,<br/>and laurel crown:<br/>Still press us for your cohorts, and, when<br/>the fight is done,<br/>Still fill your garners from the soil which<br/>our good swords have won.<br/>Still, like a spreading ulcer, which leech-<br/>craft may not cure,<br/>Let your foul usance eat away the sub-<br/>stance of the poor.<br/>Still let your haggard debtors bear all<br/>their fathers bore;<br/>Still let your dens of torment be noisome<br/>as of yore;<br/>No fire when Tiber freezes; no air in<br/>dog-star heat;<br/>And store of rods for free-born backs,<br/>and holes for free-born feet,</p> |
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Heap heavier still the fetters ; bar closer  
still the grate ;

Patient as sheep we yield us up unto your  
cruel hate.

But, by the Shades beneath us, and by  
the Gods above,

Add not unto your cruel hate your yet  
more cruel love !

Have ye not graceful ladies, whose spot-  
less lineage springs

From Consuls, and High Pontiffs, and  
ancient Alban kings ?

Ladies, who deign not on our paths to  
set their tender feet,

Who from their cars look down with  
scorn upon the wondering street,

Who in Corinthian mirrors their own  
proud smiles behold,

And breathe of Capuan odours, and shine  
with Spanish gold ?

Then leave the poor Plebeian his single  
tie to life —

The sweet, sweet love of daughter, of  
sister, and of wife,

The gentle speech, the balm for all that  
his vexed soul endures,

The kiss, in which he half forgets even  
such a yoke as yours.

Still let the maiden's beauty swell the  
father's breast with pride ;

Still let the bridegroom's arms infold an  
unpolluted bride.

Spare us the inexpiable wrong, the un-  
utterable shame,

That turns the coward's heart to steel,  
the sluggard's blood to flame,

Lest, when our latest hope is fled, ye  
taste of our despair,

And learn by proof, in some wild hour,  
how much the wretched dare."

. . . . .

Straightway Virginius led the maid a  
little space aside,

To where the reeking shambles stood,  
piled up with horn and hide,

Close to yon low dark archway, where,  
in a crimson flood,

Leaps down to the great sewer the gurg-  
ling stream of blood.

Hard by, a fletcher on a block had laid  
his whittle down :

Virginius caught the whittle up, and hid  
it in his gown.

And then his eyes grew very dim, and  
his throat began to swell,

And in a hoarse, changed voice he spake,  
" Farewell, sweet child ! Farewell !

Oh ! how I loved my darling ! Though  
stern I sometimes be,

To thee, thou know'st, I was not so.  
Who could be so to thee ?

And how my darling loved me ! How  
glad she was to hear

My footstep on the threshold when I  
came back last year !

And how she danced with pleasure to  
see my civic crown,

And took my sword, and hung it up, and  
brought me forth my gown !

Now, all those things are over—yes, all  
thy pretty ways,

Thy needlework, thy prattle, thy snatches  
of old lays ;

And none will grieve when I go forth, or  
smile when I return,

Or watch beside the old man's bed, or  
weep upon his urn.

The house that was the happiest within  
the Roman walls,

The house that envied not the wealth of  
Capua's marble halls,

Now, for the brightness of thy smile,  
must have eternal gloom,

And for the music of thy voice, the  
silence of the tomb.

The time is come. See how he points  
his eager hand this way !

See how his eyes gloat on thy grief, like  
a kite's upon the prey !

With all his wit, he little deems, that,  
spurned, betrayed, bereft,

Thy father hath in his despair one fearful  
refuge left.

He little deems that in this hand I clutch  
what still can save

Thy gentle youth from taunts and blows,  
the portion of the slave ;

Yea, and from the nameless evil, that  
passeth taunt and blow—

Foul outrage which thou know'st not,  
which thou shalt never know.

Then clasp me round the neck once more,  
and give me one more kiss ;



And now, mine own dear little girl, there  
is no way but this."

With that he lifted high the steel, and  
smote her in the side,

And in her blood she sank to earth, and  
with one sob she died.

Then, for a little moment, all people  
held their breath;

And through the crowded Forum was  
stillness as of death;

And in another moment brake forth from  
one and all

A cry as if the Volscians were coming  
o'er the wall.

Some with averted faces shrieking fled  
home again;

Some ran to call a leech; and some ran  
to lift the slain:

Some felt her lips and little wrist, if life  
might there be found;

And some tore up their garments fast,  
and strove to stanch the wound.

In vain they ran, and felt, and stanch'd;  
for never truer blow

That good right arm had dealt in fight  
against a Volscian foe.

When Appius Claudius saw that deed,  
he shuddered and sank down,

And hid his face some little space with  
the corner of his gown,

Till, with white lips and bloodshot eyes,  
Virginius tottered nigh,

And stood before the judgment-seat, and  
held the knife on high.

"Oh! dwellers in the nether gloom,  
avengers of the slain,

By this dark blood I cry to you, do right  
between us twain;

And even as Appius Claudius hath dealt  
by me and mine,

Deal you by Appius Claudius and all the  
Claudian line!"

So spake the slayer of his child, and  
turned, and went his way;

But first he cast one haggard glance to  
where the body lay,

And writhed, and groaned a fearful  
groan, and then, with steadfast feet,

Strode right across the market-place unto  
the Sacred Street.

Then up sprang Appius Claudius:  
"Stop him; alive or dead!

Ten thousand pounds of copper to the  
man who brings his head."

He looked upon his clients; but none  
would work his will.

He looked upon his lictors; but they  
trembled, and stood still.

And, as Virginius through the press his  
way in silence cleft,

Ever the mighty multitude fell back to  
right and left.

And he hath passed in safety unto his  
woeful home,

And there ta'en horse to tell the camp  
what deeds are done in Rome.

By this the flood of people was swollen  
from every side,

And streets and porches round were filled  
with that o'erflowing tide;

And close around the body gathered a  
little train

Of them that were the nearest and  
dearest to the slain.

They brought a bier, and hung it with  
many a cypress crown,

And gently they uplifted her, and gently  
laid her down.

The face of Appius Claudius wore the  
Claudian scowl and sneer,

And in the Claudian note he cried,  
"What doth this rabble here?"

Have they no crafts to mind at home,  
that hitherward they stray?

Ho! lictors, clear the market-place, and  
fetch the corpse away!"

Till then the voice of pity and fury was  
not loud;

But a deep sullen murmur wandered  
among the crowd,

Like the moaning noise that goes before  
the whirlwind on the deep,

Or the growl of a fierce watch-dog but  
half aroused from sleep.

But when the lictors at that word, tall  
yeomen all and strong,

Each with his axe and sheaf of twigs,  
went down into the throng,

Those old men say, who saw that day of  
sorrow and of sin,

That in the Roman Forum was never  
 such a din.  
 The wailing, hooting, cursing, the howls  
 of grief and hate,  
 Were heard beyond the Pincian Hill,  
 beyond the Latin Gate.  
 But close around the body, where stood  
 the little train  
 Of them that were the nearest and  
 dearest to the slain,  
 No cries were there, but teeth set fast,  
 low whispers, and black frowns,  
 And breaking up of benches, and girding  
 up of gowns.  
 'Twas well the lictors might not pierce to  
 where the maiden lay,  
 Else surely had they been all twelve torn  
 limb from limb that day.  
 Right glad they were to struggle back,  
 blood streaming from their heads,  
 With axes all in splinters, and raiment  
 all in shreds.  
 Then Appius Claudius gnawed his lip,  
 and the blood left his cheek ;  
 And thrice he beckoned with his hand,  
 and thrice he strove to speak ;  
 And thrice the tossing Forum set up a  
 frightful yell ;  
 " See, see, thou dog ! what thou hast  
 done ; and hide thy shame in hell !  
 Thou that would'st make our maidens  
 slaves must first make slaves of men.  
 Tribunes ! Hurrah for Tribunes ! Down  
 with the wicked Ten !"  
 And straightway, thick as hailstones,  
 came whizzing through the air  
 Pebbles, and bricks, and potsherds, all  
 round the curule chair ;  
 And upon Appius Claudius great fear  
 and trembling came ;  
 For never was a Claudius yet brave  
 against aught but shame.  
 Though the great houses love us not, we  
 own, to do them right,  
 That the great houses, all save one, have  
 borne them well in fight.  
 Still Caius of Corioli, his triumphs, and  
 his wrongs,  
 His vengeance, and his mercy, live in  
 our camp-fire songs.  
 Beneath the yoke of Furius oft have Gaul  
 and Tuscan bowed ;

And Rome may bear the pride of him of  
 whom herself is proud.  
 But evermore a Claudius shrinks from a  
 stricken field,  
 And changes colour like a maid at sight  
 of sword and shield.  
 The Claudian triumphs all were won  
 within the city towers ;  
 The Claudian yoke was never pressed on  
 any necks but ours.  
 A Cossus, like a wild cat, springs ever  
 at the face ;  
 A Fabius rushes like a bear against the  
 shouting chase ;  
 But the vile Claudian litter, raging with  
 curish spite.  
 Still yelps and snaps at those who run,  
 still runs from those who smite.  
 So now 't was seen of Appius. When  
 stones began to fly,  
 He shook, and crouched, and wrung his  
 hands, and smote upon his thigh.  
 " Kind clients, honest lictors, stand by  
 me in this fray !  
 Must I be torn in pieces ? Home, home,  
 the nearest way !"  
 While yet he spake, and looked around  
 with a bewildered stare,  
 Four sturdy lictors put their necks be-  
 neath the curule chair ;  
 And fourscore clients on the left, and  
 fourscore on the right,  
 Arrayed themselves with swords and  
 staves, and loins girt up for fight.  
 But, though without or staff or sword, so  
 furious was the throng,  
 That scarce the train with might and  
 main could bring their lord along.  
 Twelve times the crowd made at him ;  
 five times they seized his gown ;  
 Small chance was his to rise again, if  
 once they got him down :  
 And sharper came the pelting ; and ever-  
 more the yell—  
 " Tribunes ! we will have Tribunes !"—  
 rose with a louder swell :  
 And the chair tossed as tosses a bark  
 with tattered sail  
 When raves the Adriatic beneath an  
 eastern gale,  
 When the Calabrian sea-marks are lost  
 in clouds of spume,

And the great Thunder-Cape has donned  
his veil of inky gloom.  
One stone hit Appius in the mouth, and  
one beneath the ear ;  
And ere he reached Mount Palatine, he  
swooned with pain and fear.  
His cursed head, that he was wont to  
hold so high with pride,  
Now, like a drunken man's, hung down,  
and swayed from side to side ;  
And when his stout retainers had brought  
him to his door,  
His face and neck were all one cake of  
filth and clotted gore.  
As Appius Claudius was that day, so may  
his grandson be.  
God send Rome one such other night,  
and send me there to see !

(DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI.)

#### THE CARD-DEALER.

COULD you not drink her gaze like  
wine ?

Yet though its splendour swoon  
Into the silence languidly  
As a tune into a tune,  
Those eyes unravel the coiled night  
And know the stars at noon.

The gold that's heaped beside her hand,  
In truth rich prize it were ;  
And rich the dreams that wreath her  
brow  
With magic stillness there ;  
And he were rich who should unwind  
That woven golden hair.

Around her, where she sits, the dance  
Now breathes its eager heat ;  
And not more lightly or more true  
Fall there, the dancer's feet  
Than fall her cards on the bright board  
As 'twere a heart that beat.

Her fingers let them softly through,  
Smooth, polished, silent things ;  
And each one as it falls reflects  
The swift light shadowings,

Blood-red and purple, green and blue,  
The great eyes of her rings.

Whom plays she with ? With thee, who  
lov'st  
Those gems upon her hand,  
With me, who search her secret brow ;  
With all men, bless'd or bawn'd,  
We play together, she and me,  
Within a bairn strange land :

A land without any order,—  
Day even as night, (one saith)  
Where who lieth down ariseth not,  
Nor the sleeper awakeneth ;  
A land of darkness as darkness itself  
And of the shadow of death.

What be her cards, you ask ? Even  
there :—  
The heart that doth but crave  
More, having fed ; the diamond,  
Skilled to make base seem brave ;  
The club for smiting in the dark ;  
The spade to dig a grave.

And do you ask what game she plays ?  
With me 'tis lost or won ;  
With thee it is playing still ; with him  
It is not well begun ;  
But 'tis a game she plays with all  
Beneath the sway o' the Sun.

Tho' seest the card that falls—she knows  
The card that followeth  
Her game in thy tongue is called Life,  
As ebbs thy daily breath ;  
When she shall speak, thou'lt learn her  
tongue,  
And know she calls it Death.

(By permission of Messrs. Ellis and Elvey.)

#### A SONNET.

A SONNET is a moment's monument—  
Memorial from the soul's eternity  
To one deathless hour. Look that it be,  
Whether for lustral rite or dire portent,  
Of its own arduous fulness reverent :  
Carve it in ivory or in ebony,  
As day or night may rule : and let Time  
see

Its flowering crest impcarled and  
orient.

A Sonnet is a coin : it's face reveals  
The soul ; its converse, to what Power  
'tis due :

Whether for tribute to the August  
appeals  
Of Life, or dower in Love's high retinue  
It serve ; or, 'mid the dark wharf's  
cavernous breath,  
The Charon's palm it pay one toll to  
Death.

(By permission of Messrs. Ellis and Elvey.)

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ON THE SIGHT OF A MULBERRY
TREE :

PLANTED BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ;
FELLED BY THE REV. F. GASTRELL.

THIS tree, here fallen, no common birth
or death

Shared with its kind. The world's en-
franchised son,

Who found the trees of Life and Know-
ledge one,

Here set it, frailer than his laurel-wreath,
Shall not the wretch whose hand it fell
beneath

Rank also singly—the supreme unhung ?
Lo ! Sheppard, Turpin. pleading with
black tongue

This viler thief's suffocated breath !

We'll search thy glossary, Shakespeare !
whence almost,

And whence alone some name shall be
revealed

For this deaf drudge, to whom no length
of ears

Sufficed to catch the music of the
spheres ;

Whose soul is carrion now—too mean to
yield

Some Starveling's ninth allotment of a
ghost.

(By permission of Messrs. Ellis and Elvey.)

THE BLESSED DAMOZEL.

THE blessed damozel leaned out
From the gold bar of Heaven ;
Her eyes were deeper than the depth
Of waters still at even ;
She had three lilies in her hand,
And the stars in her hair were seven.

Her robe, ungirt from clasp to hem,
No wrought flowers did adorn,
But a white rose of Mary's gift,
For service meetly worn ;
Her hair that lay along her back
Was yellow like ripe corn.

Her seemed she scarce had been a day
One of God's Choristers ;
The wonder was not yet quite gone
From that still look of hers ;
Albeit, to them she left, her day
Had counted as ten years.

(To one, it is ten years of years,
. . . Yet now, and in this place,
Surely she leaned o'er me—her hair
Fell all about my face. . . .
Nothing : the autumn-fall of leaves
The whole year sets apace).

It was the rampart of God's house
That she was standing on ;
By God built over the sheer depth
The which is Space begun ;
So high, that looking downward thence
She scarce could see the sun.

It lies in Heaven, across the flood
Of ether, as a bridge.
Beneath, the tides of day and night
With flame and darkness ridge
The void, as low as where this earth
Spins like a fretful midge.

Around her, lovers, newly met
'Mid deathless love's acclaims,
Spoke evermore among themselves
Their heart-remembered names ;
And the souls mounting up to God
Went by her like thin flames.

And still she bowed herself and stooped
Out of the circling charm ;
Until her bosom must have made
The bar she leaned on warm,

And the lilies lay as if asleep
Along her bended arm.

From the fixed place of Heaven she saw
Time like a pulse shake fierce,
Through all the Worlds. Her gaze still
strove

Within the gulf to pierce
Its path ; and now she spoke as when
The stars sang in their spheres.

The sun was gone now ; the curled
moon

Was like a little feather
Fluttering far down the gulf ; and now
She spoke through the still weather.
Her voice was like the voice the stars
Had when they sang together.

(Ah, sweet ! Even now, in that bird's
song,

Strove not her accents there,
Fain to be hearkened ? When those
bells

Possessed the midday air,
Strove not her steps to reach my side
Down all the echoing stair ?)

"I wish that he were come to me,
For he will come," she said.
"Have I not prayed in Heaven ? on
earth,

Lord, Lord, has he not pray'd ?
Are not two prayers a perfect strength ?
And shall I feel afraid ?

"When round his head the aureole
clings,

And he is clothed in white,
I'll take his hand and go with him
To the deep wells of light ;
As unto a stream we will step down,
And bathe there in God's sight.

"We two will stand beside that shrine,
Occult, withheld, untrod,
Whose lamps are stirred continually
With prayers sent up to God ;
And see our old prayers, granted, melt
Each like a little cloud.

"We two will lie i' the shadow of
That living mystic tree,

Within whose secret growth the Dove
Is sometimes felt to be,
While every leaf that His plumes touch
Saith His Name audibly.

"And I myself will teach to him,
I myself, lying so,
The songs I sing here ; which his voice
Shall pause in, hushed and slow,
And find some knowledge at each
pause,
Or some new thing to know."

(Alas ! we two, we two, thou say'st !
Yea, one wast thou with me
That once of old. But shall God lift
To endless unity.
The soul whose likeness with thy soul
Was but its love for thee ?)

"We two," she said, "will seek the
groves

Where the Lady Mary is,
With her five handmaidens, whose
names

Are five sweet symphonies—
Cecily, Gertrude, Magdalen,
Margaret and Rosalys.

"Circlewise sit they, with bound locks
And foreheads garlanded ;
Into the fine cloth, white like flame,
Weaving the golden thread,
To fashion the birth-ropes for them
Who are just born, being dead.

"He shall fear, haply, and be dumb ;
Then will I lay my cheek
To his, and tell about our love,
Not once abashed or weak ;
And the dear Mother will approve
My pride, and let me speak.

"Herself shall bring us, hand in hand,
To Him round whom all souls
Kneel, the clear-ranged unnumbered
heads
Bowed with their aureoles :
And angels meeting us shall sing
To their cithefns and citoles.

"There will I ask of Christ the Lord
Thus much for him and me :—

Only to live, 'as once on earth.
With Love,—only to be,
As then awhile, for ever now
Together, I and he."

She gazed and listened, and then said,
Less sad of speech than mild,—
"All this is when he comes." She
ceased,
The light thrilled towards her, fill'd

With angels in strong level flight.
Her eyes prayed, and she smil'd.

(I saw her smile.) But soon their path
Was vague in distant spheres :
And then she cast her arms along
The golden barriers,
And laid her face between her hands
And wept. (I heard her tears.)
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